

YORE LORE

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

Volume 27 No 11

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Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



Jan Isosaari

*Saturday, Dec 14th, 2019, 10 am. - 12 pm.
Meeting Room - Foley Public Library*

Most people living in the U.S.A. today have ancestors who migrated here from somewhere else. **Jan Isosaari**, a professional genealogist, will speak to us on "Immigration and Naturalization - Finding your Immigrant's Roots." Her presentation will help us understand what things records can tell us about our ancestors, beyond their names and dates.

Jan Isosaari studied at University of Maine, University of West Florida and is also interested in funerals, gravestone art, epitaphs, and cemeteries. Studied at University of West Florida

Meetings are free and open to interested public.



Dec 14th: Everyone brings a treat

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Host/Hostess

Jan 11th: ? ~ Feb 8th: ? Mar 14th: ?

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Obit Committee meets 3rd Thurs of each month in AL, Local History & Genealogy Room

"WWI & WWII Memories of Baldwin County" thru Dec 14th, 2019: Honoring the men & women that served from Baldwin County. The Home Front features Baldwin County's Outer Landing Fields (OLF), the Top Secret "Operation Ivory Soap" held at Grand Hotel, POW Camps and Germany's "Drumbeat Operation" in the Gulf of Mexico. Wed thru Sat 10 a.m. - 3 pm. Baldwin County Heritage Museum, 25521 U. S. Hwy 98 E, Elberta, AL

Jan 11th BCGS Meeting Program:

Feb 8th BCGS Meeting Program: "Errors of the Way ... genealogy errors that can be, should be and need be corrected with a dash of salt" by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections. Foley Public Library.

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BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES November 7, 2019

Called to order: 11/25 am Members/Guest: 33/2 Guest Speaker: Darron Peterson, the Clotilda Descendants Association.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,263.66 - \$40 check issued to Mr. Peterson Minutes of Preceding Meetings – published in *Yore Lore*
Acquisitions: Listed in *Yore Lore*.
Committee Reports: Sunshine: N/A – Dot Brown is back – Maureen feeling better and is home from hospital
Obituary: Robert Niebling
Old Business: \$106 raised in auction to buy Halloween candy. President Tina Graham stated that in 2020, the Library will fund and furnish everything for the Halloween spectacular held at the Foley Library.
New Business: Deadline for Charter Member First Families: 12/19/2019
Announcements: Jeanette Bornholt will be the speaker for Foley's 200 Storytelling in the Park, November 21 on "Prisoners of War Camp Foley"
Speaker: Darron Patterson – The slave ship Clotilda. More information is available at www.theclotildastory.com
Hostesses: Barbara Thompson and Melanie O'Donnell
Door Prizes Awarded
Adjourned: 11:55 am. Respectfully submitted: Melanie O'Donnell for Peg Power.

Congratulations to a worth newsletter **The Timen Stiddem Society newsletter**

The Timen Stiddem Society newsletter is the winner of the National Genealogical Society's Family Association newsletter competition for 2019! The family history newsletter for the descendants of the immigrant from Sweden in seventeenth century to New Sweden (Wilmington), Delaware, encompassing the surnames: Stidham, Steadham, Stedham, Stidam, and Steddom among many others. This is not the first time for this award for the Society having won it seven times, and in the first year of publication in 1998, they took Runner-Up.

The Foley Public has *The Timen Stiddem* newsletter dating from 1998 in the current issue located in Family History Section of our Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections.

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In honor of one of our own.... Robert "Bob" Neibling



Robert Charles Neibling, age 85, departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019 in Daphne, Alabama.

Born June 10, 1934 in Horton, Kansas, he was the son of Glenn Homer and Harriet Lucille (Hubbart) Neibling. Upon graduating from Seaman High School in Topeka, Kansas in 1952, Bob enrolled in Washburn University, was affiliated with the Alpha Delta fraternity, graduating with bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in history. Following college, Bob embarked on a career in federal Civil Service with the United States Air Force.

On Aug. 13, 1960, he married Dianne Word in Mobile, Alabama and they enjoyed 57 years of life together. In 1963, Bob was accepted for a position in the Pentagon, assigned to a special project to design and deploy standard computer systems at 146 Air Force bases worldwide. Subsequently, Bob was promoted to a position of deputy director which involved directing the development of numerous other automated systems in support of the Air Force mission. During his 32-year career, Bob was honored as the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and the Outstanding Civilian Career Service medal.

Following retirement in 1989, the Neiblings relocated from Montgomery, Alabama to Gulf Shores where Bob became an active volunteer in two local civic groups chartered to preserve and enhance the quality of our natural and historic heritage. He was a founder and officer in the Little Lagoon Preservation Society and in the Defenders of Fort Morgan.

Traveling highlights included visiting the seven villages in Germany where Bob's ancestors lived before immigrating in 1752 and touring the National Parks in the United States. Throughout his adult life, Bob was an avid genealogist. In the course of his research he authored several books and 11 genealogical research papers, which he shared freely with others. Two of his research papers were selected for publication in nationally circulated periodicals.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Deborah Lynn in 1986, age 25; his loving wife of 57 years, Dianne Loretta Word; his sister, Elizabeth Fawl; and nephews, Michael S. Fawl, Michael A. Fawl and Hunter Fawl. He is survived by nephews, Robert Christopher Fawl, Shawn Patrick Fawl and Keinn Fawl, all of the Phoenix area. A special appreciation is extended to cousins, William H. Harrison III and Nancy Langmaid for their continuous support and assistance. A graveside service will be held Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, at 10 a.m. in Pine Rest Cemetery in Foley, Alabama.

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There is Judge Judy's court today, and there was Judge Voltz's court then

The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Alabama Feb 8, 1917, pg 2: (actual newspaper account)

FEBRUARY TERM OF COUNTY COURT. ---

When the Baldwin County Court convened Monday, **James M. Voltz**, the new Judge of the Probate, mounted the bench and faced a promiscuous audience that filled the circuit court room almost to its full capacity. There were representatives of several races in the audience, from the original Anglo-Saxon to the French Creole, and the charges that had been brought against the twenty-seven defendants embraced almost the entire list of misdemeanors.

Everybody was shivering, not from fear, for there was nothing to be afraid of, with **Sheriff Eubanks** close at hand, but from cold as, as cold as ice; Even the Judge was cold, but his comfort was soon arranged for by placing a large kerosene stove near his feet. (We don't mean to insinuate that his honor has cold feet.)

It was about ten o'clock when **Sheriff Eubanks** stepped to the front of the court house and in thundering tones opened the court, "Oyes! Oyez! The County Court of Baldwin County is now in session." When all was quiet Judge Voltz started reading the docket; *State vs Marsh Phillips*, selling liquor without a license; this was evidently one of those cases that gets into court by mistake, for sometimes it is difficult to tell whiskey from coca-cola, anyway it was nol-prossed.

The clouds were gathering when His Honor called the case of the *State vs Lula Askew*, abusive language. The cream of the population of **Douglasville** was present with their white powder and a super abundance of Hoyts 5c Cologne. Oh the wrath of a jealous woman! And it sure was such wrath that brought Lula to the court of Justice. She was innocent, so innocent but somebody was trying to get even and failed through a lack of convicting evidence. Lula was found not guilty as was her big sister who was also accused of using strong man-language.

The next case called was the *State vs Sam Cheney*. Sam was accused of "salting the butter" and the **Douglasville** crowd was deeply interested in his case for he is a big Republican and his conviction would hurt the party. Inasmuch as Mr. **Hawkins** was not present, Sam thought that he could save a fee and handle his own case better than any other lawyer present. He did a lot of powerful talking but the chain of evidence was too strong and "he got his," guilty and fined \$10.00 and coast said the Judge.

Brer' **Hodges**, from **Stockton**, was there too with a coterie of faithful followers. The Parson was caught carrying a big thirty-eight gatling gun but this was only after he had been threatened by what was evidently the same mob that filled his predecessor with a load of bird-shot. The Parson believes that self preservation is the first law of nature and guided himself thereby. He was fined \$50.00 and cost. His case was immediately appealed.

The case of the *State vs Dora Campbell*, on two counts was quickly handled inasmuch as the defendant pleaded guilty to both counts. She was accused of using abusive language and assaulting Miss **Blanche Graham**.

It was near three o'clock Tuesday, when court was declared adjourned for the month and congratulations were extended to Judge **Voltz** for the very efficient manner in which he conducted his first court coming under his jurisdiction as Probate Judge of Baldwin County. All is well now until the first Monday in March. #30

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CHRISTMAS WEEK OFFERS CHANCE TO PREDICT WEATHER

Fairhope Courier, Fairhope, Alabama, Dec 12, 1940, pg 6

Weather prognosticators have found means of forecasting most of the coming year's weather by cocking an eye at the sky during Christmas week. You may not believe them, but here are a few of the varied – and conflicting—beliefs about Christmas weather:

If the sun shines through the apple tree on Christmas day, there will be a good crop the following year.

If ice will bear a man before Christmas, it will not bear a mouse afterward.

Thunder and lightning Christmas week means much snow in the winter.

Wet causes more damage than frost before than after Christmas.

If it snows Christmas night, the hop crop will be good next year.

At Christmas meadows green, at Easter covered with frost. If windy Christmas Day, trees will bring much fruit.

Christmas wet give empty granary and barrel. A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard.

A warm Christmas, a cold Easter. A green Christmas, a white Easter.

The following was printed in the Yore Lore, December 2000.

Once in a while, something happens to make you stop and reflect on the meaning of the word 'wonder', the wonder that a child sees, feels, expresses, and we as adults tend to lose and shouldn't. That has been reaction to all who have heard Kelley and Emili's story.

It had been hectic Thanksgiving holidays, traveling upstate for family gathering, late hours, back home to squeeze in Christmas shopping. For nine year old Emili, trotting along as her mother Kelley shopped in Hudson's, was getting a bit much so she climbed into the shopping buggy. Those who know Emili know she loves to talk, sing, and hum to anyone, and if no one, then to herself. And that's what she was doing while sitting in the buggy while Kelley was looking at books, one ear listening to chatter of her daughter.

It was when the chatter stopped and Kelley heard her whisper that she turned to look at her daughter. "What? She asked. Emili whispered, again, "Santa Claus!" "Where?" as Kelley turned to see a man standing right behind her nodding his head at Emili; a tall man dressed in blue jeans, a blue flannel shirt, and with a wonderful white beard. He pulled a lollipop from an invisible shirt pocket and handed it to Emili. Holding a book she wanted to purchase, Emili, still whispering, asked if Santa would sign it. He did.

The story doesn't end there. As Kelley and Emili were checking out, Emili told the cashier that Santa was in the store. The checkout girl replied they didn't have a Santa in the store. Emili's mother, responded, "Yes, you do!" pointing down the aisle. The cashier peering down the aisle, immediately told next cashier to take a break Santa Claus was in the store!

And Emili can prove it. He signed her book "to Emili, love Santa. God Bless". Look up the word 'wonder' in Webster's.

Blessed Holidays from Yore Lore, Dec 2000



What ever happen to the town of Brady, Baldwin County's Ghost Town?

In midst of tall virgin timberland where abundant wildlife of deer and bear roamed, there was a settlement in the larger fork of **Hollinger's Creek** and **Styx River**, the smaller fork of **Reedy Creek** and **Flat Creek** located about 15 miles southeast

of Baldwin County Courthouse seat of Bay Minette. An early settler carved a small rutted road to his homestead and cleared some acreage for crops. He named his home Brady. Today, wilderness and wildlife have reclaimed the acreage except of few signs there was ever once a settlement existed. Who named this settlement? Who were these settlers that came to this unforgiving land? What happened for Brady to become a 'ghost town'?

The **Duck** family figures prominently in the early settlement of Brady. Timber was the occupation, cutting trees, hauling by mules to a pond created by a man-made dam near Styx River. When heavy rains came, logs floated down the river to Perdido Bay more than likely to Millview Sawmill partially built on pilings on the Florida side of the bay.

In 1901, **Timothy Duck's** Heirs received a land grant of a hundred and twenty acres and thirty hundredths of an acre under the 1862 Homestead Entry in Section 4, Towns 4 South, Range 4 E. In 1868, Duck had previously received a warrant grant "for 80 acres in favor of **Timothy Duck**, Private in Captain Sam's Company, Georgia Militia, Florida War." Timothy's grandson, **Robert F. Duck** and his wife (**Louella Wallace Duck**) also received a land grant of hundred twenty acres, also in Section 4, Towns 4 South, Range 4 E which is in the fork of Hollinger's Creek and Styx River. Robert Franklin Duck was son of John Ozier Duck.

Timothy Duck, born in 1820, Pike County, Alabama, died in 1898 being the first to be buried in the little cemetery, the only evidence left today to proclaim Brady existed. Duck married **Arra Ann Bashaba Chandler** in 1843 in Pike County, Alabama and had six children: **Frances Melvian Duck Cardwell, Doratha Duck Silcox, John Ozier Duck, Henry Jackson Duck, Alpheus Davis Duck, and Sarah Ann Duck Townley**. But as early as Jun 1896, the *Baldwin Times* newspaper community column for Brady noted that **Mrs. Timothy Duck** went to visit her daughters **Mrs. Sallie Townley** and **Mrs. Mary Nellums** in Muscogee, Florida. By August, 1896, it was noted **Mrs. Timothy Duck** quietly passed away on the morning of the 5th of August, at age of seventy-three years of age. She left behind a husband, seven children and a number of grandchildren. Rev. S.Z. Bellah preached the funeral sermon. "She was a good mother and a true christian."

Timothy and Arra Ann's son, **Alpheus Davis Duck** married three wives: **Clara Bell Merrill, Victoria Octavia Hall, Elvie Luverne Quinley** and sixteen children. Population became serious in settlement of Brady. Rev. Alpheus Duck was one of Baldwin County's most prominent pastors. While a native of Butler County, he had lived most of his life in Baldwin County. "Brother Duck was a minister of the gospel, preaching good old Methodist doctrine", it is written. Through his efforts and much work, he built four churches, organized eight congregations and served at least 20 churches.

In April of 1942, a family reunion was held at the Duck home, by then, in Cross Roads, at which thirteen of their children with wives and husbands were present. Almost all of the forty-four grandchildren attended with their wives and husbands and most of the eighteen great grandchildren were present.

The **Ducks**, along with a few others in that area, met for church services under several large Magnolia trees that are still standing. Later a small log building served for services, later to become dual duty as a school for the children. Three miles east of Brady, a sawmill was built on **Hollinger's Creek**, tradition says named for an old Indian chief.

Another evidence of Brady existing is the "**Reb Bridge**" of Styx River which still remains. Children played in the swimming holes by the Reb Bridge where it was believed Rebel soldiers camped one night. Early the next morning, the Reb soldiers sent a wagon out loaded with Confederate gold. When the wagon returned later in the day, the fortune had supposedly been buried on a hill about one and half miles northwest of where Brady was later established. It still has not been found. Thus one of the greatest buried treasure "gold" stories of Baldwin County.

The cemetery in Brady was the church cemetery of the old **Magnolia Church**. Traveling southeast on Old Brady Road approximately five miles where the paved road becomes a dirt road, travel another ten miles and the cemetery is on the left. There was an annual "overhauling" of the graveyard which was surrounded by sagging wire fence and charred posts from forest fires. It is said all the families buried in the cemetery were homesteaders at Old Brady.

Some of the surnames in the graveyard are **Hall, Peaden, Jones, Duck, Chandler, Sharp, Silcox, Ashe, Givens, Johnson, Lambert, Arnette, Weekley, LaCoste, Hinote, and Levins**.

The turn of the century was the best of times for Brady, even a logging railroad was built to carry logs south to larger mills. But eventually the best timber began to disappear with more land visible than trees. Families began to move elsewhere to make a living. Land was taken over by larger lumber companies. Homes began to disappear. Within few years, ads appeared such as the one in *Baldwin Times*, 1922: "For Sale, Six room house, 12 acres land, one mile out on Brady road. Cash or terms, Address, F. E. Hall, De Quincy, La, or phone Oak Hall."

The most familiar landmark, The Magnolia Church and school, was torn down to salvage materials to nearby community of Stapleton, there to build the Stapleton Methodist Church.

Today, Brady is still on the tongue of natives of Baldwin County but of the settlement itself little remains with exception of cemetery, and a few other remnants. Instead, it is and has returned to the forest of tall pines and wildlife it once was years ago. Now forever known as Brady the Ghost Town.

Sources: *Baldwin Times*, June 25, 1896 pg 1; 'Millview' *Pensacola Historical Society Quarterly*, v 1 o 3, July 1965; *The Alabama Christian Advocate Publication*; www.findagrave.com; 'The Onlooker' newspaper, Jul 7, 1960; 'the Baldwin Times, April 23, 1942 pg 1; Carolyn Pearson' award winning essay 'Baldwin's Ghost Town'; *Magnolia Cemetery, Brady Road, Baldwin County, Alabama, genealogytrails.com*;

Magnolia Cemetery Also known as *Duck Cemetery*
Location Brady, Baldwin County, Alabama



.... not forgotten



