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

Volume 28 No 1

January 2020

## Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



Guest Speaker **Auriette Lindsey**

**“Time Travel for Genealogists *Preparing for a Journey to the Past*”**  
**January 11th, 2020, 10 am Meeting Room Foley Public Library**

FOLEY, Ala. - The U.S. Department of Time Travel is giving genealogists the chance to do what we once only dreamt of by allowing selected family historians to go back in time and interview our ancestors.

Before you step into that time machine, you'll need some specialized training and preparations. 21st century casualwear and a debit card won't get you far in the past. This program will help you look the part, find your way, and pay for lunch without standing out. The presentation may be fanciful, but as you study up for your imaginary trip, you'll learn details that will give you a better understanding of your ancestors' lives and the times they lived in.

**Our guest speaker is Auriette Lindsey**, the society's current vice president. She was bitten by the genealogy bug in 2015 and has been slowing filling out her family tree ever since. She has served on the boards of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society and the West Florida Genealogical Society. Past programs include "Preserving Your Family History: Scan, Save, Share" and "FamilySearch 101."

**Meetings are free and open to interested public.**

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**Host/Hostess**

Jan 11th: ? ~ Feb 8th: Tina Graham, Maureen Lee Mar 14th: ?

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**Obit Committee** meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of each month in AL, Local History & Genealogy Room

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**No minutes for the December Meeting**

### ***Foley Public Library Voted Best Library by ‘Big Beautiful Baldwin’s Best’ in 2019-2020***

In September, 2019, Gulf Coast Media launched a fun readers' choice poll to name the “Big Beautiful Baldwin’s Best of 2020.” Readers, friends, family and customers voted for their favorites from among the nominated groups including automotive, business, community, education, food and drink, medical and wellness, shopping and commerce, best teacher, boutique, best burger and more. Votes counted in more than 300 categories all to highlight the reasons people love calling Baldwin County home. At the end 194,430 votes were counted with **Foley Public Library** nominated and voted best library in the county.

Baldwin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. The 2010 census had 182,265 residents in the county with growth estimates of 12 new residents per day, makes current population well over 210,000.

Director of the Foley Public Library John Jackson says, “An award of this caliber is one of the highest compliments as it is the people who use our facility and has firsthand knowledge of the all the services we offer to the public that took time to vote.” Last year also marked the fourth year the Foley Library received 5-Star rating from Library Journal and has been ranked in the top ten of libraries in the United States in our category.

*Sources: GulfCoastMedia; Foley Public Library.*

## Montrose, Baldwin County, Alabama



Hermit House built by Henry Stuart 1923



Original Montrose Post Office, Adams Street



Ecor Rouge Beach Cliffs also called Red Bluff

**Montrose**, an unincorporated community along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, was originally known as **Sibley City** in honor of **Cyrus Sibley**, an early landowner of thousands of acres in Baldwin County. Sibley commissioned surveyor **Gavin B. Yuille** to lay out the village in 1847. In a letter to **George C. Sibley**, Free Esquire from **John Sibley** dated "29 Octr. 1821", John writes as to "remembering a relation of ours "Cyrus Sibley, long time a prisoner in the Havanna and when he returned found his Houses, Mills & all burnt, his cattle lost & had Nothing left but the Esteem of those who knew him. I lately Recd, a letter from him. He is now one of the Judges in the State of Alibami \* is worth in Mills, House, Negroes & Land from Sixty to one hundred thousand dollars. is unmarried & highly Esteemed by his Neighbors" In 1852, the name was changed to **Montrose** as tribute to the Scottish Duke of **Montrose**, former royal burgh in Angus, Scotland.

Situated between **Daphne** and **Fairhope**, Montrose predates both of the cities. As early as 1768 there was a settlement near the unique red clay bluffs which boasts the highest elevation on any of the eastern coastline from Maine to Mexico. A historical marker states "The red cliff was used as mariners' landmark on Spanish maps as early as 1500s, called Ecor Rouge by French settlers in 1700s, and used for a British hospital camp in 1771." Aboriginal Indians held camps here, making pottery using the unique clay. Brick were made here in 1818 for the re-building of Fort Morgan. Numerous Potteries were created supplying demands of city of Mobile. A news reporter once saw a schooner unloading at Government Street Wharf a cargo of 6,200 jugs of assorted sizes, which were consigned to **A. Baerman**, a grocer and liquor dealer in the city.

Among the noted potters was the **McAdam** family; **James** and his sons, **Willie**, **John** and **Peter** were all pottery makers, taking over at one time the **LaCoste** pottery at Montrose. Later **Ashleigh Moses** and his **Montrose Pottery Company** took over the **McAdam** trade. Many of the potters achieved artistic accomplishments highly regarded, as evidence of the clay altar **Peter McAdam** made for **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** in Daphne. The **Gabel families** were another family involved in pottery making. More well known was **Joseph Gabel**, (b1836 d1896) whose pottery was salt glaze, sometimes with cobalt decoration, and was stamped "Deady & Gabel Manufacturers, Montrose, Ala." He was also one of the potters supplying grocer **A. Baerman** in Mobile, Ala.

**Florence Dolive Scott** and **Richard Joseph Scott** recorded the history of descendants of those who lived in Montrose, including period covering Civil War history, in their book, "*Montrose as it was recorded .. told about, and lived.*"

Montrose was almost entirely residential with many homes considered summer homes for across the Mobile Bay and city of Mobile citizens to escape the heat of the city and dread of yellow fever. Fourteen homes in Montrose date from early 1850s and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places which also includes the Montrose Post Office constructed in 1890 and still standing. The historic Montrose Cemetery on Sibley Street was dedicated in 1856.

**John I Gable** advertised his "Butcher Wagon" in an ad July 1896 in *Baldwin Times* newspaper stating "My Beef Wagon will be in Daphne and Montrose two days in every week and will continue all the year 'round. I will at all times furnish the best beef and mutton, and at the lowest prices." In October, 1896, the colored Methodists held a basket meeting at Montrose which was largely attended with services conducted by pastor **J. W. Ryans**. Meanwhile **Bessie Wheeler** of Mobile spent week as guest of **Mrs. Harry Pillans**. Clerk of the Steamer **TALLY**, **John Gerald**, was spending a few days in Montrose as the guest of **Capt. F. Stone**.

The **Eastern Shore Transportation Co.** posted their schedule stating "the Steamer **HEROINE** or **JAS. A. CARNEY**, **Wm. O'Neal** Master leaves Mobile daily for Daphne, Montrose and Battles Wharf at 3:00 o'clock, r. m. Fare 25c each way while no freight received after 2.00 o'clock"

By 1897, **J. C. Yarker** contemplated putting in electric lights at his sawmill near Montrose so as to be able to run the mill day and night. Mrs. J. Donovan placed an ad to sell 6 acres "House and lot in the town of Montrose-lot No, 13". In 1901, **John A. Green** boldly advertised "I build Wire Fences !!! Write to me for Estimates! Montrose, Alabama. Enquiries and orders left at the office of the *Fairhope Courier* will receive prompt attention" **Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas** of Montrose were entertainment for local functions with programs of recitations and impersonations by Mr. Thomas and dramatic sketches by both he and his wife.

Montrose was considered a summer resort in the early 1900s for Southern visitors and winter resorts for Northern visitors. "Delightful salt water bathing may be indulged in at most of the places." In December, 1901, **Mrs. John A. Green** died at her home after illness of several weeks and was laid to rest in Montrose Cemetery. The love and devotion of her husband was noted. It was also written **Isabell Gibbs**, the daughter of **Joe Gibbs**, colored, died in Mobile and was brought to Montrose to be buried.

August of 1904, the commissioner voted to open the road from **Battles** (Wharf) to Montrose, allowing travelers to be glad of the particular work. **Ashleigh Moses** of the Montrose pottery went to Mobile for several days on business in Feb of 1905 while **Robert Stapleton** was confined to his house with case of the grip. **A. Sharpe** of Oberlin, Pa. purchased the **Gaynor** place and would begin work on it at once. He planned to spend a part of each year in Montrose.

**Georgia Morse**, wife of **Louis Morse** (colored) was stricken with paralysis two weeks prior to her death in Feb of 1905 and was buried in Montrose. **London Hill** (colored) died at his home in Montrose on Saturday while **Troupe Alien** (colored) died at his home on Sunday after a long and painful illness. Both were buried in Montrose Cemetery.

Headlines on September 7, 1906: '**Joergen Jensen** Burned in His House near Montrose'. "**Joergen Jensen, age 52 years, was burned to a powder in his house at Montrose about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning.**" Jensen kept a store in his residence repairing watches and fire arms. There was so much mystery about the fire that an investigation was made as soon as the fire died out sufficiently to permit an examination of the ruins. In the midst of ashes, the posts of Jensen's iron bed were soon found with fragments of human bones. Coroner **McKenzie** empaneled a jury with **J. A. Voutrot** as foreman, **Z.M. Bush, John Schweitzer, A. J. Young, Harry Marshall** and **Willie Starke**.

The coroner's jury examined several witnesses and secured evidence which pointed strongly to a possible crime *but* the verdict was that **Jensen** came to his death from unknown causes and that his house was burned in a manner unknown. About three weeks prior, Mrs. Jensen died under circumstances which made the neighbors suspect her husband Joergen, of having been neglectful, at least. **Joergen Jensen's** remains were collected, placed in a box and buried beside his wife in Montrose.

Fairhope Courier, Oct 1907, had written about big improvement that was planned on the old **Mrs. Tatum Homestead** between Montrose and Daphne with much work already done by "an unknown company." Leading stockholders of the **Bay Steamship Company** were connected with the enterprise, the whole shore destined to be lined with summer and winter homes and utilized as a health and pleasure resort. It became evident the unknown was the **Montrose Park Hotel Co.** formed January 1, 1908 but dissolved by Oct 1929, incorporators were **Richard Murray, E. D Pepper, W. W. Thompson**. But by November of 1907, all work had been stopped by the **Montrose Park Company** who was to build a big hotel and amusement park, put in a 2,000 passenger steamer, etc. The reason given was the fear of prohibition which had carried in so many counties of the state.

In 1908, a proposal of a shore drive road between Point Clear and Daphne being built would follow on top of the low bluff across the **Montrose Park and Hotel Company's** tract as near the shore as practical and rising with easy grade of the shoreline, making it one of the finest drives in the country and is yet today.

May of 1909, **William Bernard Kelly** died at his home and was laid to rest in Montrose Cemetery with **Rev. Father Gossi** officiating. Mr. Kelly was born in New Orleans but lived the greater part of his life in Baldwin County. He was 61 years of age and left behind one sister. That same month an accident occurred near the **Montrose Pottery**; some little children (colored) were playing in the gully when a side of the bank caved in and killed one of them.

Situated on Eastern Shore, **Sibley Academy at Montrose** was open in 1859 for reception of "Pupils of both sexes at any stage of advancement." **Ansel Lamson, A. B.**, a "Teacher of all the branches of a thorough education was Principal of the Male Department" while **Miss Louisa L. Morse** took charge of the Female Department. Named Trustees were **A. E. Ledyar, A. M. Elgin,** and **T. P. Miller**. In January 1893, **Knights of Pleasure of Montrose** was formed for benevolent purposes with the incorporators named as **Lewis Mose, Goodloe McRea, Augustus Donald, John Sexton,** and **Lula Gibbs**.

One of the historic and unique homes in Montrose known as **Tolstoy Park** and **Hermit House**, is that of **Henry Stuart**. An Englishman, Stuart was living in Nampa, Idaho when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis, mistakenly, and advised to move to a warmer climate to live out his days. In 1923, he left his family, purchased 10 acres which he named **Tolstoy Park**. He began building a circular, domed hut in 1925, pouring the concrete blocks himself. Delayed only by a hurricane in September of 1926, Stuart completed the construction in less than year. A local architect who studied the hut noted the house is sunk sixteen inches in the ground which at that depth is constant 57 degrees making the floor cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The diameter of the floor, fourteen feet, perfectly matched the distance between the floor and top of the hut's domed roof. Six top-hinged windows circle the hut with two skylights in the roof.

**Stuart** lived a simple life, grew much of his own food, weaving rugs on a loom he brought from Idaho. He slept in a hammock and although with appearance of a hermit, barefooted, and with long white beard, he accepted visitors, kept a guestbook with 1,200 signatures. Lawyer **Clarence Darrow** is said to have visited the hut six times. Stuart moved to Oregon in 1944 to live with his son where he died in 1946.

Montrose, today much of the community still residential, has been designated as Historic District by the Baldwin County Historic Preservation District, by the State of Alabama and by the National Register of Historic Places. "Residents like the small town niceties Montrose has to offer," writes Janice Hume, "Montrose conjures up images of bay sunsets, ancient live oaks, mountains of pink azaleas, and a relaxed, elegant way of life."

*Sources: Fairhope Courier, Oct7, 1948 pg 6; Historic Montrose, Alabama; Heritage Marker 'Ecor Rouge' Main St, Hwy Scenic 98; Baldwin Times newspaper, Bay Minette, AL 1896; Alabama Folk Pottery by Joey Brackner, pg 81, 229; Fairhope Courier newspaper, 1901; Sept 1906; Alabama Secretary of State; Fairhope Store, Fairhope, AL; excerpts from "A Hermit's Refuge is Now a Writer's Muse", reporter Warren St. John, NY Times May 2006; "Story of Montrose and Its People Told in Book by Pair Living There" by correspondent Frances Olivier, Mobile Press Register; "Montrose" by Janice Hume, reporter Mobile Press Register, 1987.*  
Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, FPL

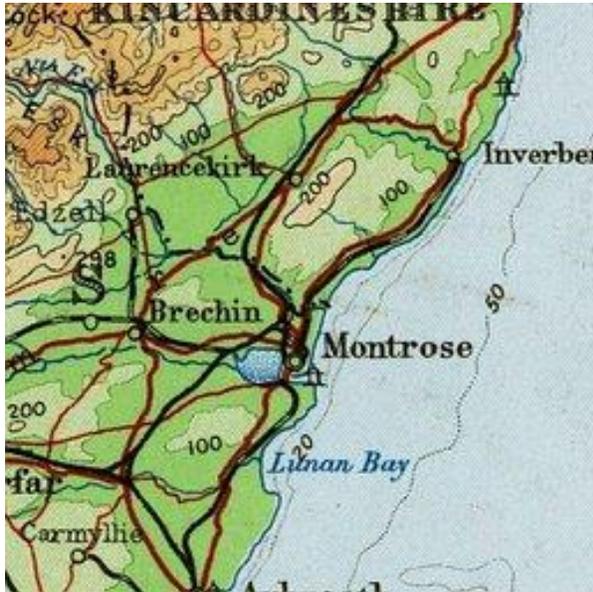
## Montrose, Angus, Scotland vs Montrose, Baldwin County, Alabama

What similarities are in common for Montrose, Alabama, to be named in honor of Montrose, Scotland?

**Montrose, located on Eastern Shore of Baldwin County, Alabama**, of which is the geographic eastern shoreline of Mobile Bay in southwest Alabama extending from just north of Interstate 10 to the southeastern end of the Mobile Bay near Weeks Bay. The Bay's role as seaport of Mobile makes it an active seaport with the Eastern Shore gaining from people and goods made their living by the water and roadways. Montrose is a busy coastal town with an ancient history with seaside red bluff of the highest elevation in Eastern United States.

**Montrose, located on Angus coastline, Scotland**, of which the Angus coastline is about 35 miles long, from north of Montrose to the outskirts of Dundee. When roads were poor, goods and people were carried along the coast by ship, and over a dozen distinct communities in Angus made their living from the vibrant and bustling coast including Montrose. It is steeped in a rich culture and heritage.

Both Montrose, Alabama, and Montrose, Scotland, communities can boast of famous sons and daughters and one can walk in the footsteps of your ancestors in either place.



Montrose, Angus, Scotland



Montrose, Baldwin County, Alabama



**Dunninald, Montrose, Scotland**, was built in 1824 by the architect James Gillespie Graham in the Gothic Revival style.



The Chapman-Scott Home, 1855, in historic Montrose, Alabama, a Creole Cottage House architectural style popular in Gulf Coast States.

At its best in July, a highlight of *Dunninald* is the walled garden. Set a short walk from the house, at the end of a beech avenue the walled garden is south facing with a curved wall, and planted with traditional mixed borders, vegetables, soft fruits, fruit trees and a greenhouse.

The *Chapman-Scott House* is one and half stories, has five bay façade, gabled roof, is a clapboard structure with full-width porches, dormers, and central doorways, with traditional old oak and magnolia trees gracing the house and yard.



Red Castle, Montrose, Scotland, Built of red sandstone, the ruins of the castle dated largely from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Cedar Brook Drive, Montrose, Alabama, relaxing on Mobile Bay, watching sunsets for centuries.



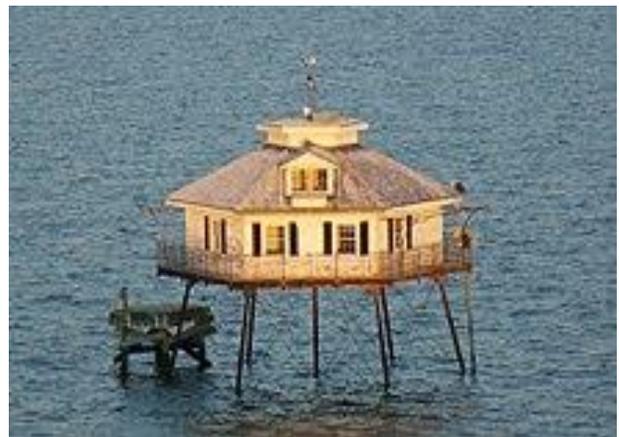
A beautiful Georgian house, overlooking Montrose Basin Montrose, Scotland.



Located on Sibley Street on 2.8 acres in historic Montrose, Alabama



**Bell Rock Lighthouse, Montrose, Scotland**, came into service in 1811, designed by engineer Robert Stevenson (1771-1850) it is considered one of the major engineering feats of early 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Middle Bay Lighthouse, Mobile Bay, one of Alabama's most interesting, an active hexagonal-shape cottage style screw-pile Lighthouse, patterned after blind Irish engineer, Alexander Mitchell's designs of 1838.