

YORE LORE

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

Volume 28 No 4

April 2020

Baldwin County Genealogical Society

ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF APRIL MEETING due to Coronavirus outbreak. We wish all to be careful and heed warnings of protection.

Changes will be posted on BCGS website, BCGS
Facebook, Foley Library's website and Facebook.
Do take care.

The Foley
Public Library is
CLOSED to the
public beginning
March 16, 2020.

The health of our
visitors, volunteers and
staff is our highest
priority.

Changes will be posted
on our website
www.cityoffoley.org



**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
ALL EVENTS, PROGRAMS, MEETINGS, ETC.,
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT
FOLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

*This includes weekly Storytime, the Doki Doki Anime Club,
Bingo, our Patron Picks Movie, Makersaurus Time,
Adult Art Crafts, Pokemon Club, & FORWARD CITY CON.
Please continue to check our site for further information.*



**Federal & State TAX FORMS
can be picked up from the City Hall Lobby
next door to the Library**

Host/Hostess (*We are in need of volunteers for upcoming dates. Thank you.*)

~ May 9th ? ~ June 13th Peg Powers/ Gloria & Alan Griggs ~ July 11th ?~~

Obit Committee will not be meeting until further notice due to coronavirus outbreak. Watch for notices for meetings to start again on 3rd Thurs of each month in AL, Local History & Genealogy Room

~~

BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES March 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 10:50a MEMBERS/GUESTS: 15-20
GUEST SPEAKER: Auriette Lindsey, subject: Time Travel for Genealogists

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$894.17 (check for \$49.94 paid to Melanie O'Donnell for the anniversary cake) Minutes of the February General Meeting were published in the March issue of Yore Lore. Tina reminded the group that we need hostesses for several months this year and encouraged all of us to consider the need. Acquisitions: Received a copy of "The Ancestry of Jane Alvira McNeal and Arthur Edmund Anderson", donated by Mark Robinson in Memory of his wife, Joan Urban Robinson. Maureen Lee submitted the acquisition.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Membership: One new member, Sarah Lee Brown. Obituary: Next Meeting March 19, 2020 at 9:30am. OLD BUSINESS: None. NEW BUSINESS: Next month, the group will be selecting a nominating committee for new officers.

SPEAKERS FOR APRIL: Janell Duxbury on German Heritage HOSTESSES: BCGS board to celebrate our 33rd anniversary Door prizes awarded Adjourned 11:15am Submitted by Melanie O'Donnell

~~



from AncestryLibrary

Alabama Public Library Service

March 18 at 6:42 PM

Big news!

In light of concerns about COVID-19 and the closure of many libraries around the state, Ancestry and ProQuest are offering temporary at-home access to Ancestry Library Edition for Alabama residents.

Visit our electronic resources on the APLS Webpage at

<https://apls1.apls.state.al.us/.../cont.../electronicresources> for more information about home access to these popular online tools!

Please note that at-home access is available on an extremely temporary basis. Once at-home access is rescinded, and once COVID-19 abates, we encourage users to visit their local public library to access Ancestry Library Edition in addition to a wealth of other information and resources.

Source: Ancestry and library-Facebook Search

~~

WAITING FOR THE VIRUS TO LEAVE OUR WORLD? ? DO SOME RESEARCH IN SAFE "NEAT AND COOL" PLACES ... ONLINE

If you cannot go to the sources physically, do next best thing, and be prepared to be surprised at what is available online.

If you are a frustrated historian, family researcher not able to be in your floaty in the waters of our Gulf of Mexico off our banned beaches, grab your computer and questions and let's get started with believe it or not, **Google**. **When you google, put your search in quotes**. Play around with wording and places. What will probably happen, first cousin to an encyclopedia **Wikipedia** will pop up with something on almost any subject. Read the summary **but look for the citations, sources at the bottom of the article**.

If there is a connection of your interest, you can then google the sources, again in quotes. **Many sources are printed online**. Google books is awesome and many can be downloaded on your computer, (*right hand corner link, window will list download*) search by 'control f' or 'edit-find' for names, places. You can print the page noting to print "current page" or by page number on little link that pops up on bottom or top of screen to denote printing and what page it is on. Once you finish your search and close out, the book does not save.. it goes away.

You are looking for the best research citations, sources that would be most accurate or true. If a source is cited by multiple sites, it would be more reliable but always be aware as in personal family histories such as submitted online by folks, mistakes can be made. Go to the primary, the original source. Those sources may include journals, letters, newspaper or magazine articles, oral histories, etc.

Of course the best step would be **go to your library, if open to public during this virus crisis**. (*Foley Public Library is closed to public until further notice but we do have email, phone, Facebook and Twitter.*) **But if not open, you can do much right at home**.

While I have not personally search *each* site listed below, these are a few of some exciting sites that you may not be aware of with tremendous sources :

HathiTrust.com is a partnership of academic and research institutions, offers collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world, vast variety of subjects and **is absolutely awesome!**

Google Scholar.com will tell you how many times your different resources have been cited. Obviously the sources with most citations would be considered most reliable.

Archive.org is Internet Archive, a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites and more. <https://www.archive.org>

Digital History www.digitalhistory.uh.edu is a valuable resource for U.S. history with up-to-day textbook as well as essays on film, private life, science and technology and visual histories about Lincoln's America and America's reconstruction **BUT the site also makes use of primary sources such as gravestones, historical advertising and letters.** The site also includes numerous reference materials including an extensive audio-visual archive. There is also a feature that allows you to pose questions to professional historians. "The site might just turn your research into leisure" says OEDB (Open Education Database)

FindArticles.com has the text of articles from about 500 print periodicals with coverage back to 1998 and is completely free of charge. You won't find some of the more popular magazines but the collection is broad enough to be useful for many topics. It would be no substitute for most library archives; but it can be a great resource for simple article searching.

Internet History Sourcebooks Project, located at the History Department of Fordham University, NY offers collection of public domain and copy permitted historical texts with variety of topics. These sourcebooks can provide a valuable, time-saving resource for history enthusiasts, one can find information for example of everyday life in 17th century France. While the primary sources are available for primarily use in high-school/ university/college courses, the site has a very broad view of sources available as well as documents associated with "western civilization" approach to history. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu>

Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/> Few people realize the amount of information the Library of Congress offers online. The American Memory Collection contains wealth of materials on American history including thousands of photos, maps, documents, and even sheet music. In addition, the site offers online exhibits, and if you can't find what you're looking for, there is an online resource to ask a librarian. For anyone interested in American history, the Library of Congress is an invaluable resource that can provide you with wealth of information not available anywhere.

Get online and let the time fly that has all of us on social restrictions due to this horrid virus. Wishing all well.

compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Foley Public Library Sources of information for this article: Study right: *6 tips for finding research paper resources that set you apart* by Skylar Anderson; OEDB (Open Education DataBase: *The Best Online Research Apps/Sites You've Never heard of*; <https://www.hathiTrust.org>, <https://archive.org>, sites info courtesy Curry Weber; Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/

ADDITIONS TO ALABAMA, LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY COLLECTIONS, FPL

Donations:

Registered in name of Morris Russell Burroughs presented to him by his "Dad" Russell Burroughs, 1927:

AMERICA – Great Crisis In American History as Told by Its Makers (12-Vols.) c1925;. Vol. 1, 1000-1562 through Vol. 12 ending 1916-1925; Hard Covers, Gold Leaf pages; gold embossed on cover with Eagle and American Legion Emblem; Printed in Chicago, Each copy is registered in name of owner at headquarters and Certified Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Heyhich Naloff, Commander in Chief A.B. Bandy J. Adj. General.

Estate of Glen and Elois Wilson:

Paint Rock Valley Pioneers by Kittye V Henshaw, Evelyn Sm Rochelle, Addie K S Shaver

Heritage of Jackson County, Alabama, c1998 by Jackson County Heritage Book Committee

Estill Springs, its history until incorporation by William Byrom Dickesn, Franklin County Historical Review, vol xxxvii, 1997

Most Distinguished Characters on the American Frontier, Robert Looney (b 1692-1702 d1770), of Augusta (now Botetourt County)

Virginia and some of his descendants with histories of the Great Road, Looney's Ferry, Crow's Ferry, Anderson's Ferry, Boyd's Ferry and Beale's Bridge, vol 1 by Madge Looney Crane and Phillip L. Crane

Locating Your Roots, discover your ancestors using land records by Patricia Law hatcher.

1880 US States Census and National Index, FamilySearch Viewer 4.0, 24 discs (*will be for circulation if you have FS Viewer 4*)

Other Additions: Library

The Founding of Alabama, Background and formative period in the Great Bend and Madison County by Frances C. Roberts *REF ALA and circ ALA copies*

"Come to My Sunland," letters of Julia Daniels Moseley from the Florida Frontier, 1882-1886 edited by Julia W Moseley, Betty P Crislip

Dictionary of Louisisana French, as spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities, Senior Editor Albert Valdman,

Associate Editor Kevin J. Rottet

~ ~

SEMINOLE.....community, Baldwin County, Alabama



Location of historic Seminole



Ben Stegal on right sawing a large log with cross-cut saw at Southern States Logging camp.



Perdido River

A settlement listed in 1899 *Century Atlas*, **Seminole** is a historic unincorporated community located in SE of the county accessed by US Highway 90, about 14 miles east of Robertsdale, near the Alabama/Florida state line. Tradition says the settlement received its name from Seminole Indians having a camp ground nearby of which Indian mounds are still in evidence. A post office operated under the name Seminole from 1894 to 1967. Having the abundance of water with three rivers, Seminole is located along Black Water and Styx River which joins Perdido River, which eventually empties into Perdido Bay. The old Spanish Trail is said to be traced through Seminole on its way westward.

Old Seminole, once a lumber camp, had two lumber companies, including **Perdido Lumber Company**, with leased timber land, hauling logs to Black Water River, floating them down to Millville, Florida on east side (Florida side) of Perdido Bay. April 4, 1912, newspaper column stated **Joe and Rush Mitchell** as hauling and shipping lumber to the Pensacola market while **Eli Malone** was figuring on a large boat to use on the beautiful lake (**Reeder's Lake**) near his home. **Leonard Mitchell** was visiting **Dick Bowington**, the rural mail carrier for Seminole. Mrs. **J. W. Hundey** had "arrived from far north and is charmed by our fine climate and balmy air." The column also noted "Seminole is getting to be quite an up to date town, as lots are being fenced with good wire fences. Also signs up and down the boulevard drive that read as follows: "To Gun Club," "Keep off the Grass," "No Spitting on the Sidewalk," "10 Minutes Walk to Car Line." It was also noted the new railroad ran as far as the **McNaught** homestead; there they read a sign, "Not Trespassing."

The Seminole Sumatra Co. was formed in February 1911 to grow, buy and sell tobacco, etc., with **M. E. Hasley**, **S. A. Tucker**, both Senior and Junior, listed as incorporators but the September 1909, Office of State Treasurer annual report already listed the company in their report with receipts of 4.88. Seminole Development company formed in January 1915 nature of business was "Merc Club Etc" with incorporators **John B. Wiggins**, **Harry C. Maley**, **Elmer E. Buchan** and **Bayard W. Barton**. In December 1940, **Baldwin County Electric Membership Corporation** as allowed right to enter the lands to place, construct, operate, repair, maintain, relocate and replace", etc.....

Northern folks moved into the area to settle or came to escape the cold seasons in north to fish, hunt, and rebuilding the area after lumber companies moved on. February, 1913, **C.K. Mills**, Geneva, Ind., was guest of **S. A. Scott**, looking over the country for a location for a winter home. **Lewis Cooper** and a **Mr. Wiggins** from Chicago had a successful day fishing catching 28 pounds in little over two hours.

Successful 7th grade pupils who passed examination were awarded certificates in May, 1915, with Seminole School awarding **Verna W. Gebhart**, average 85. In Nov. 1915, Miss **Louise Johnson**, teacher of the Seminole School, gave a "Halloween social at her school with a musical programme along with other amusements." In Jan., 1917, Honor Roll of Seminole School who received average of 90 or over for month of December were **Wiley Mitchell**, **Winnie Malone**, **Andy Sidener**, **Roy Malone**, and **Evelyn Mitchell**. In 1919, **Georgia Bishop** served as teacher at the Seminole School.

By February, 1916, progress was being made on the now historic **Seminole Country Club** overhauling, repairing cottages vacated by the **Wordens** and **Scotts**, fitting up the grounds, getting their golf course in shape. A carload of furniture being shipped from Chicago. **J. C. Pollock** was in charge of the work. **J. B. Wiggins** of Chicago was the President of the Club. Others involved were **Harry Maley** and **Elmer Buchau**. Seminole Country Club was "enjoyable

place at present” On March 22, 1923, when **C.H. Burke**, former Chicagoan, purchased the County Club property with twenty northern boarders already enjoying golf, fishing and occasional jaunt to Pensacola, Florida.

A farming community as well, F. Gehhart and Sons were prime examples with their canned goods such as *None Such Tomatoes* and *Pure Sugar Cane Syrup* most likely shipped with others out with L& N Railroad near the Summerdale Cannery Company. From 1910-1925, the Gebharts raised tomatoes and other vegetables on their farm. After preparing them for canning, they were taken to Summerdale Cannery where after canned, special colored labels of Frank’s with his logo “F. Gebhart & Sons, Seminole, Ala.” were applied. The **Gebharts** were also in the cane syrup making business with just as colorful labels. A mule was used to power a cane press to extract the juice from the cane. The “cooking down” of the cane juice required constant stirring by half a dozen people and keeping the fire just right. Frank thought there must be a better way and after some experimentation, he placed a serpentine of pipe under the cooking pan (steam tracer) and ran steam from the sawmill boiler through it. This made it impossible to scorch the syrup and yet maintained a constant temperature making their jobs much easier. As the demand for their syrup increased they gained the reputation for making the finest syrup in the area.

Mary Malone says **Malone’s Grocery** was the first business in Seminole built in 1929 by **Roy and Mary Malone**. “Roy had an old Clabber Baking Powder can that he saved his money in,” Mary says, “until he got \$500 saved up and bought the lumber and materials for the store building it themselves.”

Post Master Evelyn Mitchell Lambert and mail carrier, **Earl Everhart** were pictured on porch of the first **Seminole Post Office** in 1939. The post office, built by Mrs. Lambert’s father, **W. D. Mitchell** in 1928, is said to be one of Alabama’s oldest landmarks and the smallest post office with its 8 x 12 feet dimensions.

Local stories still prevail about the sunken paddlewheel steamship in Seminole. Just when and why the boat sank is lost through time. It was equipped with a walking-beam type steam engine powered by a single boiler, and now lays in a north/south orientation along the west bank of **Black Water River**, with bow pointed south away from Seminole. The paddle wheel is approximately 100 ft long listing at 44 degree angle and visible from the bank of the river.

In the early days there was not a bridge to connect Seminole to Florida, so paddle boats and ferries played an important role in transporting both people and good across Styx and Perdido Rivers. In 1815, **Henry A. Nunez** saw a potential money maker in a ferry crossing the Perdido River. Helping with the construction of a road, it became part of the Old Spanish Trail which crossed at Nunez Ferry. This trail also became a popular stage coach route from to Mobile through Blakeley, making it a trip of about twelve hours. The Nunez Ferry operated from 1815-1919. **Cruett Mitchell**, b1902, lived in area his entire life and helped operate a ferry across the Seminole’s third river, the Styx.

Seminole had two lodges, one of which was the famous “**Mobile Bill Jackson’s Lodge**” that travelers stayed in when they came to the community. **Jackson’s Lodge** advertised “*Home Cooked Meals! Rooms! Parties! Fish Fry Every Friday! Special Sunday Dinner! Premium Beer*”

The caption under a photo says “Where the wild deer crop the Birchen Sprays” Black Water River, Seminole, Baldwin County. The photo is in *The American Riviera Review*, 1929. It was true then and is true today.

Sources: *Local residents share history of Seminole*, Jeannette Ryan and Angie Speakman, GulfCoastMedia 5/15/2018; Zillow Realty; Donovan Landing Real Estate; the *Onlooker* newspaper, April 1912, Feb 1913; *Independent* newspaper; Jeanette Dyess Ryan, contributing writer; *Baldwin’s Today* Sep 1991, John Underwood, GulfCoast Media; Mobile Press Register, Jan1986, pg 2C, Frances Coleman PR Reporter: *Seminole, an old logging town nestled among three rivers*; *The American Riviera Review*, May 1929, v 1 pg 12 no 12;



Mitchell Cemetery, Seminole, AL



Blackwater River



Styx River

