

# YORE LORE

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

Volume 28 No 7

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## Baldwin County Genealogical Society's August 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting is Cancelled ...

due to the continued effect of Covid 19 pandemic limiting traveling for guest speaker. Tentative plans are still for a Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Please stay posted to BCGS and Foley Library's webpage.

We wish all to be careful and take care.

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**Obit Committee is meeting with respect to social distancing.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of each month in AL, Local History & Genealogy Room

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### BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES: July 11, 2020

President Tina Graham called the Baldwin County Genealogical Society meeting to order July 11, 2020 at 10:10 am in the Foley Public Library meeting room. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, only 20 members could attend. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Jeanette Bornholt, librarian at FPL gave the most interesting program, "Worst Nightmares in Family Tree, so help Me". Hopefully she will return to present this program when more members can attend.

#### REPORTS;

Treasurer--\$926.60 Membership dues are due and payable as follows:

Single \$10 Couple \$15

Minutes of April meeting published in Yore Lore approved.

Acquisitions: Listed in Yore Lore. Tina Graham donated book Black Jack by Robert Knuckle.

Committee Reports:

Membership—Updated through June 3, 2020

Sunshine- No report

Obituary-- Met in June and will meet July 16, 2020

Old Business—Current officers and board members will stay in office until December 2020. Nominations in October with installation in December. If you are interested in an serving on the board contact Tina Graham.

Announcements:

Speaker August 8 Janell Duxbury "Tracing your German Heritage"

Hostesses-- Peg Power and Tina Graham

Door Prize Lennie's Lily won by Pat Brummett.

Adjourned: 11:20 Peg Power, Recording Secretary

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### Additions to Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections

**Memorial:** Fred "Cowboy" Lenz *from Jason and Kim Scott*

**Our Italian Surnames** by Joseph G. Fucilla  
*from Ed and Jeanette Bornholt and family*

**The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany** by James M. Beidler

**Donation:** *from Private Collection of Ben Cruitte*, copies of (newspapers) Eastern Shore Press, South Baldwin Press and Baldwin County Press during years 1997 through 2012.

#### Donations:

Statistical Handbook of Trigg County, Kentucky, 1790-1900 by Eurie Pearl Wilford Neel

Obituaries from Barbour County, Alabama, Newspapers 1890-1905 by Helen S. Foley

1833 State Census for Barbour County, Alabama by Helen S. Foley  
Bible Records from Barbour County, Alabama vol 1 and 2 by Helen S. Foley  
Marriage records 1838-1859 Barbour County, Alabama by Helen S. Foley  
Rural Land Owners of Barbour County, Alabama by Marie H. Godfrey  
Sims Index to Land Grants in West Virginia by West Virginia's Auditor's Office  
Marriage and Death Notices from the Southern Christian Advocate 1837-1860 vol 1 by Brent H. Holcomb  
The Spanish Archives of the General Land Office of Texas by Virginia H. Taylor  
Our Italian Immigrant Families: Grocers, Proprietors, and Entrepreneurs by Joseph N. Macaluso, Sr. Ph. D.  
Mass Migration Under Sail: European Immigration to the Antebellum United States by Raymond L Cohn  
Pennsylvania German Pioneers in Two Volumes, Vol II, 175-85-1808 Indexes by Ralph B Strassburger  
Minnesota Swedes Vol II Trolle Ljungby Families in Goodhue County by Lilly Settdahl  
Seventy-Five Years of German Immigration to Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, 1800-1875 vol 1 A-E by  
 Barbara A. McClurkin  
Historic German Newspapers ONLINE second edition compiled by Ernest Thode  
West Wind, Flood Tide the Battle of Mobile Bay by Jack Friend  
Italians to America, lists of passengers arriving at U. S. Ports, Vol 26, may 1904-May 1904 edited by Ira A  
 Glazier  
Mobile Under Siege, surviving the Union Blockade by Paula Lenor Webb REF ALA collection  
Wilson's Raid, the final blow to the Confederacy by Russell W. Blount Jr. REF ALA collection  
The Last Siege, The Mobile Campaign, Alabama 1865 by Paul Brueske

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## Did you know ....

... **The town of Silverhill, Baldwin County, Alabama**, is *said* to be named after a man named Silverhill but is actually for a man whose name was not Silver nor Hill. The businessman lived on the hill near the community and in his business would take no money but ....silver coin. (*Baldwin County History Files, FPL*)

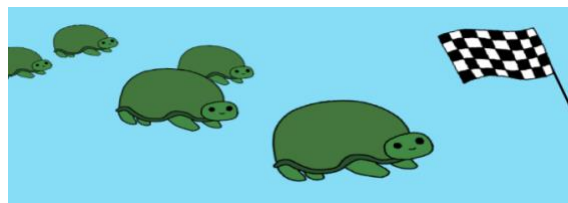
... **The records of the 1950 census will be available in April 2022.** Of interest is the supplementary question 33, randomly selected for six people per sheet, asked males if they had served in the US Armed Forces during World War II, World I, or "any other time, including present service." The instructions define service as "active duty of any time" in the United States, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard , or any reserve branch. Exclusions and time periods are defined in the instructions. *Source: NGS Magazine April/Jun 2020 v46 pg 46*

... **In October of 1931, in Foley, Baldwin County, Alabama, a "Terrapin Race" was staged** for the Foley Lions Club Charity Fund Derby. The race attracted interest from far and near, with every indication there would be many people from Baldwin and adjoining counties present. Three of the entrants were "Scarface Al", from Chicago, and "Tarheel" from Evergreen, Ala. the latter the winner in Evergreen Terrapin race; and the midget "Kilowatt" which was Foley's entry in the race at Evergreen.

Winners from the Foley terrapin race would be entered in American Legions' terrapin race in Bay Minette in November. Number one and two of the Rules and Regulations was "*all terrapins, turtles and gophers shall be eligible to entry in the race, as many with as he or she sees fit to register with payment of entry fee of \$1.00 per racer.*"

The "race track" would be a circle 200 feet in diameter, marked with chalk or lime. The entrants would be placed in a round wire cage in center of circle and at the time set of race, the cage would be lifted, all entrants released at the same time. The first racer to cross completely the outside line of the circle would be the winner of the first prize 15% of entrance fee. Prize given for entrant with most original name. Any owner who goes upon the race track during progress of race, or any interferes with his or her entrant/entrants would be disqualified. An admission of 10 cents was charged to see this race, everyone invited.

Judges for the Foley terrapin race were "Lions: Lemler, Pilgrim, Holmes, C. A. Boller and Dreis with registration committee: Lions: Pinons, W. A. Boller and Lawrenz; Official starter: A. H. Mueller, Treasurer and gate keepers: McCanin, Cooney, and Krahe."



Ahhh, to revive the sport of terrapiin racing.

## Elsanor Community, Baldwin County, “ a strange irony of fate”



Landmark U.S. 90 Garage Co Rd 87 & US. Hwy 90, known today as Maw Maw's Country Market.



Boyinton Cemetery, Elsanor Community

Located about 7 miles east of Robertsdale on the Old Spanish Trail (Highway 90) **Carl Boseck** writes in his history of **Elsanor**, “by a strange irony of fate, the descendant of **Duchesneau**, the French intendant. ... in spirit of **F. X. Duchesneau**, born in Montreal in 1843, struck out for adventure and conquest, first in Ontario, next in the Dakotas, then Nevada and last in Baldwin County, Alabama.” Seeking health for his ailing wife, **Duchesneau** left frozen prairies of North Dakota in 1909, came to Fairhope but it was too late for his wife who died. However, the climate and sunshine had rejuvenated Mr. **Duchesneau** so that he would learn whether the soil would give him sustenance.”

In 1911, **Gregory Ecoeur**, a life-time friend of Mr. **Dushesneau** came into what was known as the “Elsanor districk” and erected the first two-story house east of Robertsdale, then built a hamlet of fewer than a dozen buildings. Finding no market for the products of his dairy cows, he settled for general farming. He was followed by **Adelor Riendiau**, a former storekeeper, who erected a house within sight of **Ecoeur**'s, who also went into farming. Ardent churchmen, these Canadian French early on encouraged Father Thomas who came monthly from **Elberta** for services. **Ulderic Riendeau** donated needed land for a church overlooking Old Spanish Trail (Hwy 90) “with every man,” Boseck writes, “aiding in erection of what is one of finest small chapels of the Roman Church on the coast.” The first child to be baptized in the chapel was that of Mr. and Mrs. **Eugene Cosavent** while the first grave in the adjoining churchyard occupied the remains of the late **Ulderic Riendeau**, former owner of the plot. For many years while driving along Hwy 90, one could catch glimpse in the tall pines, the small **St Matthew's Roman Catholic Church**, later converted into a private home.

When French Canadian, **Gregory Ecoeur** moved from North Dakota to Elsanor, he at once started building a house using best building material available, hauling the millwork in a one horse wagon from Mobile. The house was built on a prominent hilltop visible for miles. He opened his doors to other French Canadian families until their homes were built. Mr. **Ecoeur** was a bachelor and on his death the property went to his relatives in French Switzerland.

The **Elsanor School Improvement** association was formed in January, 1914, with Mr. **G. W. Wiley** president, Mrs. **J. M. Firth**, vice president and Mrs. **Frank Lorenz** secretary-treasurer. The new school building was reported to be \$50 in debt while the proceeds of two entertainments given by teacher Miss **Marion E. Hunt** would be used toward painting the school. The **Standard Oil Company** furnished “a high class oil cooking stove for its domestic science department.” **R. T. Rackley**, a native of Missouri, of **Barnwell** community, accompanied by his wife, would succeed Miss Hunt as teacher.

Basketball teams were organized under **Rackley** who also instructed his boy classes in road work intending to improve permanently the highway abutting the states' two acre plot. By November 1927, the Elsanor girls basketball team played Loxley, the score 9 to 0 in favor of Elsanor. The domestic science class was conducted by **Rackley**'s wife who donated her services. With a total of 48 bu. 22 lbs and 3 oz to the credit of one acre of land, **Carl Kedzura** was declared the winner in the Elsanor School corn club contest of the **Marion E. Hunt** Prize valued at \$2.50.

In March, “a saturnalia thievery” was rampant in the “Elsanor districk: rifling of mail boxes belonging to northerners, the **Eureka Store** broken into stealing \$15 and quantity of merchandise. And from the **McMaster** place, two rolls of fencing, aggregating close to 500 pounds, were taken away by wagon.”

The Elsanor community, a rich farming area, shows in the 1920s, when **L. S. Perry**, supt. of Elsanor Farms had 450 hills of watermelons, 1,000 tomatoes plants of several kinds and many kinds of cantaloupes. **L. F. Vorhis**, was the largest swine breeder in the Elsanor district, taking charge of the **Banning Pecan Orchard**, the largest and best known development of its kind in Alabama. After having demonstrated that a woman can make a success in growing pecans, **Mrs. Banning** felt “she was entitled to a respite.” (*sic*)

Another woman entrepreneur, Mrs. **Spaulding Peck**'s orange marmalade business was growing in importance, express shipment to all parts of the county being made daily stated newspaper accounts.

In Oct 1919, the **Elsanor Community Club** was organized “taking its membership every resident of Elsanor Consolidated district embracing a territory of close to 200 square miles and making its goal a better community,

agriculturally as well as socially.” **Tollie Turley** of Ashland, Ohio, bought 120 acre tract along the Old Spanish Trail near Elsanor School house where he expected to build a six room bungalow for his family.

In 1923, a survey of sites offered for consolidated school were from **Spaulding Speck, F. L. Ballinger, Xenopha Casseveat, Louise F. Brand, Abram MacMaster, Wilfred Riendeau** and **J. G.Hershman**. At that time **Spaulding Peck** “*who put the Silverhill Farmers’ Association on the map and made Robertsdale, known throughout the produce world, has 1,500 acres of Irish potatoes under contract.*” **Betty Koler**, age 17 of Elsanor became the Potato Queen during Daphne’s May Day Festivities in 1947 while in Jan of 1948, birth announcements at Holmes Memorial Hospital stated the birth of a daughter, **Carolyn**, to Mr. And Mrs. **Carl B. Dyess**.

In the fall of 1948, fire completely destroyed the **Bethel Baptist Church** when members of the congregation were cleaning the building and grounds for church the next day. Members managed to save the church’s benches, prayer and song books and a piano. The building itself was total loss, all that remained was the chimney and steps to the charred ruins. By Monday, members of the church began work on a new church.

Elsanor School Students made headlines planting 1,000 slash pine seedlings in the spring of 1949. Students **Burton Farrier, Dan Waters, Burton Tarver, Cecil Johns, Jo Ann Brill, Willie Smith, Bragg Bovington, Earl Vaughn, Joan Sirmon, Joe Simmons, Lenard Givens, Esther Mitcher**, (teacher) **Mrs. Munson, Sam Stewart, J. D. Wright** (timber marketing specialist), **Iris Jean Pierce, Jim Ziglar** and **Jerry Vaughn** were pictured.

One of the last marriages in **St. Matthews Catholic Church** in the Elsanor community held in September of 1958 was that of **Eulene Malone**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **Floyd Malone** and **Joseph Petelinski**, son of Mrs. **Joseph Petelinski, Sr.** and the late Mr. **Petelinski** of Robertsdale.

When **Tom Teal** donated an acre of land he homesteaded for the **Boyington Cemetery** in Elsanor, **Merriel A. Boykin** was already buried on the land known as **Merriel Cemetery** for a time, then called the **Teal Cemetery**. It is now known as **Boyington Cemetery**. *This information was furnished by Mrs. R.J. (Susan) Boyington.*

**Walter Greek** homesteaded 120 acres in Elsanor community which was later sold in 1916 to **B. F. Sprinkler** who owned the adjoining stock farm and now with Greek property had the benefit of Blackwater River. **Walter Greek** was married to **Nickey/Nicie Hinote** who lived most of her life in Elsanor. It was noted in July 1916, Walter was the owner of a new Ford car. In February, 1952, Walter at age 70 was killed when struck by an automobile when he “darted across Highway 90” in Elsanor community. He is buried in the **Greek Cemetery**.

In November 1931, at the age of 24, their son **Aden Greek**, already a prominent Baldwin County farmer, died of injuries following a head-on automobile/truck crash. His companion **Leon Noeakorski** of Robertsdale was seriously injured. The crash occurred as the gentlemen were returning after delivering truck load of produce in Pensacola collided with a drunk driver.

Son **Avery Greek** was a Forest Patrolman south of Styx River in the Seminole Fire Tower. These fire towers scattered throughout the pine lands of Baldwin County helped to curtail forest fires that could destroy thousands of timberland acres. Firebreak maintenance work was on-going initial effort to keep forest green and productive.

Wife of Walter, Mrs. **Niccie Arentha (Hinote) Greek** died in September of 1958, leaving as survivors her daughter Mrs. **Ada McClelland**, her son **Avery Greek**, a sister **Mrs. Ann Hastings** of Robertsdale and brother **Jim Hinote** of Summerdale. Her funeral services stated her interment, as others of her family, was in the **Greek Cemetery**

**Elsanor**, today, is still the thriving farming community with an exceptional school, churches and close community ties that has marked this settlement from long ago. Many have come, many of gone and many have stayed to carry on traditions.



Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery, Elsanor



Creek Cemetery, just south Hwy 90 east in Elsanor Community

Sources: *A Brief History of Baldwin County*, c1928, Baldwin Co Hist. Soc. pg 81-82; *The Onlooker* newspaper, Foley, Alabama, Jan 21, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1920, etc; *Heritage of Baldwin County, Alabama*, c2001; *The Baldwin Times* newspaper, Bay Minette, 1948, 1949, 1958, etc.; [www.findagrave.co](http://www.findagrave.co). compiled by J Bornholt, FPL