

YORE LORE

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

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Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents

Bert Outlaw, guest speaker, will be presenting program on “Cadastral Maps” on January 9th at 10 a.m. **At this time we are planning on a virtual meeting via vitual/Zoom. Watch Facebook group also for login link posted January 8th or please call or email Tina for zoom meeting ID and Passcode: tdrgraham@yahoo.com or 251-978-2137.**

A cadastral map shows the boundaries and ownership of land parcels, an aid most beneficial in family research. Bert will explain how to find and use these maps to learn more about your family history. As past president of West Florida Genealogical Society and active many historical organizations through the years, Bert brings to the table a wealth of knowledge in researching your ancestors.

Please stay posted to BCGS and Foley Library’s webpage. We wish all a Blessed and Happy New Year. Be careful and take care.

Tina Graham, President

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**BCGS Board Meetings will continue to meet at 10 a.m. Board Room.**

**Obit Committee is meeting with respect to social distancing** meeting every Wednesday of each month in AL, Local History & Genealogy Room



### Talmadge “Tally” O. Burkhead October 20, 1924 – December 12, 2020

She was known as Tally to most all of us, in fact, never knew her name was **Talmadge Odessa Smith Burkhead**, in all its glory. Born in Walton County, Florida, Tally was a “Florida Cracker” as she and her dear friend Dot Brown called themselves and was proud of it.

She met her photographer husband George F. Burkhead when he was stationed at Pensacola Naval Air Station, making their home in Pensacola after George was discharged from Navy. Their only child, George F. Burkhead III, was born in 1945.

Tally wore many hats in her lifetime, worked in Lerner’s clothing store before working with Escambia County, Florida, civil service retiring as office manager for the Escambia County Extension Office. Independent, loved to travel taking road trips with friends, granddaughter Robin, or tooling around pulling a 30 ft Airstream on her own, Tally was unafraid. She was an avid family researcher but of the old school, handwritten sources, letter writing, traveling to sites to research. Distaining computers, the closest she got to technology was photocopying.

Active throughout her life in community and church, Tally was also a long time entrenched member of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society, West Florida Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederacy and just about any other patriotic society. She was very proud of her heritage.

Always with that look of knowledge in her eyes and that wry smile, she could be outspoken but I personally enjoyed and respected her opinion, her wisdom and her sense of humor. Tally was 96 years old.

*Editor of YoreLore*

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ADDITIONS TO ALABAMA, LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY COLLECTIONS

Received message this day, Foley Public Library’s Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections will be the recipient, at her request, of **Tally Burkhead’s** genealogical collections of family files, research sources, books and materials. We are grateful for her her family remembering us with her contributions.

MEMORIALS

Sue Ellen Giles from Fort Bowyer Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution:

Virginia Revolutionary War State Pension published by Virginia Genealogical Society, Special Publication No. 7

Vonda Coleman from Fort Bowyer Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution:

Notes on Southside Virginia by Walter A. Watson

Leilia Morton Vannoy from her estate by her sister, Nancy Morton Price:

Family Tree Magazine various issues from 2006-2015

Family Tree Maker: software, numerous guide books including

[FTM 2017 Companion Guide to Family Tree Maker](#) by Tana L. Pederson
[The Family Tree Problem solver, proven methods for scaling the inevitable brick wall](#) by Marsha Hoffman Rising
[Unofficial Guide to ancestry.com](#) by Nancy Hendrickson
[The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide](#) by Joy Neighbors
[Focus on the Past, a Genealogist's Guide to Photography](#) by Kenneth L. Smith
[Tracing your Alabama Past](#) by Robert Scott Davis
[Southern Ladies' Civil War & Antebellum Fashions, 1855-1865](#) by Sarah E Mitchell
[Organize your Genealogy, strategies and solutions for every researcher](#) by Drew Smith
[Fields of Glory, history and tour guide of the Atlanta Campaign](#) by Jim Miles
[Researcher's guide to American Genealogy](#) by Val D. Greenwood 2nd edition
[Milton County, Georgia, Cemeteries \(present day Northern Fulton County\)](#) by Phillip B. Anglin
[Family Maps of Blount County, Alabama, deluxe edition](#) by Gregory A. Boyd, J. D.
[Census Substitutes & State Census Records, 2nd ed., vol 1 Eastern States](#) by William Dollarhide
[Finding your Roots](#) by Jeane Eddy Westin
[Atlanta, GA and the counties of Cobb, De Kalb, Fulton](#) compiled from historical writings of Rev. George White, George G. Leckie and WPA Writers.
[Georgia Genealogical Research](#) by George K. Schweitzer
[Walking the Trail, one 'man's journey along the Cherokee Trail of Tears](#) by Jerry Ellis
[Guide to Genealogy online](#) by editors of Family Tree
[Genealogy via the Internet, computerized genealogy](#) by Ralph Roberts
[Honoring our ancestors, inspiring stories of the quest for our roots](#) by Megan Smolenyak Smolemyak
[Cry of the Eagle, history and legends of the Cherokee Indians and their buried treasures](#) by Forest C. Wade
[Cherokee Proud a guide for tracing and honoring your Cherokee Ancestors, 2nd ed.](#) by Tony Mack McClure
[Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives](#)
[Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815](#) by William Dollarhide
[Old South, a picture memory](#) by Bill Harris
[Researching in North Carolina](#) by Wendy L. Elliott
[Beyond Pedigrees, organizing and enhancing your work](#) by Beverly DeLong Whitaker
[Heritage of the West](#) by Charles Phillips
[West Florida Footprints](#), no 36, 37, 38 2015-2017
[North and South, magazine of the Civil War Conflict](#) vol 2 no 3
[The Road to War, newspaper](#) (reproduced for general public in interest of historical accuracy as public service by Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Feb 2011)
[Horace Kephart's The Cherokees of the Smokey Mountains](#)
[The Story of the Cherokee People](#) by Tom B. Underwood
[Cherokee Legends and the Trail of Tears](#) adapted by Thomas Bryan Underwood
[North Carolina Genealogical Research](#) by George K. Schweitzer
[South Carolina Genealogical Research](#) by George K. Schweitzer
[Mount Paran Baptist Church 1853-1977](#) (York District, South Carolina) compiled by The Historical Committee
[Strange by true Alabama, people, places and things](#) by Lynne L. Hall
[Mississippi's Haunted Mansions](#) by Jill Pascoe
[National Geographic's Eyewitness to the Civil War](#) May 2012
[Hood's Nashville Campaign, full story of Franklin and Nashville, Cavalry operations...](#) editors of Civil War Times illustrated
[Georgia Courthouse Disasters](#) by Paul K. Graham
[Beautiful Blount County \(AL\)](#) publication of Blount County-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce 2008
[The Family Tree Resource book for Genealogists](#), edited by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack and Erin Nevius
[Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#) by National Park Service
[Dahlonega Gold: Dahlonega City of God \(Lumpkin County, GA\)](#) by Ben Green Cooper
[Marriage Records AL, GA, NC & SC, TN](#) (notebook compilation of Leila Morton Vannoy)
[State Research Information](#) , AL, GA, NC, SC, OK, TN, TX, VA (notebook compilation of Leila Morton Vannoy)
[Cemetery Records](#) (counties in GA) (notebook compilation of Leila Morton Vannoy)
 numerous maps collection



To each and all, and to our country, a happy,
 safe, healthy, prosperous, blessed new year...
 Have I left anything out? If so, fill it in for me,

JOSIAH BLAKELEY

The man who owned Blakeley Island and founded the town of Blakeley, Baldwin County



Blakeley Island, an island located on the northwestern coast of Mobile Bay, bounded on the west by the Mobile River, on the south by Pinto Island and Mobile Bay, and on the east and north by the Spanish River.

Blakeley Island, AL Birding Trails

Born in New Haven County, Connecticut, British Colonial America, in 1746, **Josiah Blakeley** was the fourth child of seven known children of **Jesse and Deborah (Todd) Blakeley/Blakeslee**. The question whether Josiah spelled his name “**Blakeley**” as his namesake town was named or “**Blakely**” as the United States confirmed his island title, most have decide for “**Blakeley**” as several original letters preserved in the Spanish archives have it uniformly with the ‘e.’

Josiah Blakeley bought his island from **Don Jose Collins**, in 1807, naming it Blakeley Island, living on the Polecat Bay side of his island above Coffee Bayou on his plantation he named “Festino.” Josiah was also the founder of the town of **Blakeley** on the eastern shore of **Mobile Bay**, in what is part of the Blakeley State Park in Baldwin County.

Before leaving Connecticut for a roving life, Josiah was the owner of “Josiah Blakeley’s Universal Store in Hartford” (CT), advertising in Feb, 1779, “Juft opened and to be fold, Wholesale and Retail” products from “color’d German ferges to Irish linenf, green and bohea tea, coffee and currantf among the many other items. (Note: in old script ‘f’ was used in place of ‘s’ in words)

In December, 1779, Josiah advertised “The higheft price given on FRANCE, at Josiah Blakeley’s Store under the Printing Office.” But the ad in 1780 was for “Strayed from the barn of the subferiber, a dun colour’d MARE, about 14 and a quarter hands high, a white face and hollow in it, trots wll, and has the hair worn off her back in feveral places. Whoever will take up fold reinf and give notice to fubscriber, fhall be entitled to handfome reward for their trouble and all charges.”

Josiah was in sales of Jamaica Spirits and West Indies Rum in 1781 so it seems no surprise to find he is the American Consul at **St Jago de Cuba**. The site was defined as commercial point in the maritime orders of Spain. Josiah, as Consul of the United States, wrote protesting the schooner *Polly* taken by a British frigate, retaken by a Spanish “feelucca”* and sent into Cuba where it she was condemned. He claimed her as American property subject to salvage but was told by order of King of Spain all neutral vessels retaken were considered good prizes. Josiah’s letter of protest was printed in many newspapers through the country which did not help his popularity within Cuba. *(*felucca, a wooden sailing boat used Mediterranean*)

An extract of a letter from Josiah, as “Esq. American Consul at St. Jago de Cuba, to the collector of the port of New York dated 24th Dec. 1800”, tells of “an earthquake which did much damage in Oct and fevere hurricane on the 2d Nov, the duty on flour and all provifions brot in veffels belonging to the United States is reduced to 10 per. cent. for 6 months” for which he prayed they would make known to merchants of the United States.

By the end of 1805, Spanish relations became tense with capture of the ship *Huntress*, detention of a gun boat, and the cruel treatment of vessels and seamen. Josiah describes the “Spaniards as in a state of utmost inquietude and anxiety, fearing war between the United States and Spain; that their sole dependence in that island (*Cuba*) being on American commerce.” Newspaper accounts throughout the states raised protest that “Josiah Blakeley, esq. late American consul at St. Jago, had been persecuted to such a degree by the Spanish government, as to have been obliged to embark from that place in consequence of a sentence lately passed at Havanna against imprisonment.” him which threatened him with imprisonment.”

Arriving in Mobile about 1806, Josiah’s allegiance of the Spanish crown still exists in archives at Mobile bearing date July 10, 1810. The paper recites that he had already lived four years in the district and had since 1807 cultivated an island (his Blakeley Island) purchased from Don Jose Collins. Josiah stated he had lived six years in **Santiago de Cuba**.

Despite his position as consul to Spanish society, Josiah declared in Mobile court he could not write Spanish. He did not stay in Mobile but in a one story house on one of the Indian shell mounds on the Polecat Bay side of his island above Coffee Bayou. On the marshy shore of Polecat bay, he raise cattle and hunted the prolific wild hogs. In a letter to his niece Abby, in Feb 1812, he wrote of “*plenty of good cysters and fish, and during the winter the greatest plenty of wild geese, ducks, etc. Venison is plenty all the year, often for ¼ dollar a quarter. . . My Festino plantation is about three miles from Mobile where next month, March, I begin planting Rice. Rice generally grows about as high as wheat; on my island it grows six feet high. It also produces cotton superior to any other land in this country.*”

Josiah enjoyed his Southern home, and “*live willingly under the yaller pines*”, half farmer, half fisherman. He was known to *pirogued through the bayou named for the coffee smuggled there by Cyrus Sibly. All knew the bachelor and welcomed him to their fireside. Josiah made a point to attending mass on Conti and Royal streets in Mobile as he wrote his niece “*my room is directly opposite the Roman Catholic Church, the only one here, in which I sometimes attend Mass, though no Catholic, I love to see religion attended to, it has good effect on the conduct and morals of the people.*”

In May of 1813, Josiah brought in **James Magoffin** from the older settlement at **St. Stephens** to lay out his new town on his property on western shore of Baldwin County, and within two months, Josiah began selling lots on the sunrise hills, in course of time, disposed of over four hundred.

On January 18th, 1814, Josiah as ‘Presiding Justice of the Mississippi Territory of the United States Mobile County, entered on his duties accordingly and the Court proceeded to business’. A meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Mobile convened at the dwelling house of **Josiah Blakeley**, Esquire, on Wednesday 20th of July 1814, for the purpose of ‘taking into consideration the perilous situation of affairs in the this section of the Territory.’ **Josiah Blakeley** Esq. was called to Chair, and **M. McKinsey** was appointed Secretary on motion of **Joseph P. Kennedy**, seconded. Josiah was an active man in the government and merchant circles.

The Territorial Legislature chartered the town as “**Blakeley**” on January 6, 1814, and “for valuable services in that matter the founder deeded a number of lots to his lawyer, **Samuel Haines**.” Six days later, came the incorporation of **Mobile** as an American Town. **Samuel Haines** like **Josiah** owned property in both Mobile and Blakeley but preferred to live at Mobile in whose organization both were active.

The new town of **Blakeley** would have to grow without its founder as barely a year later, in early spring, Josiah Blakeley died, without issue; his affairs according to his nuncupative* will, in some confusion. On April 17th, 1815, is recorded ‘proof nuncupative of will of Josiah Blakeley, established by text **Aaron Barlow** and **Alvin Robeshaw**, Letters of Admins.’ By July 18th, 1815, Orphan Court records of Mobile County states **Lewis Judson** and **Sam’l Haines**, Esq. Executors of **Josiah Blakely**, dec’d, present appraisers of personal property; ordered (to) sell agreeable to law. Later in October, 1815, **Judson** and **Haines**, administrators, filed a ‘schedule net proceeds of sale of personal estate of J Blakeley & debts; estate insolvent; motion of Haines, real estate was sufficient to pay debts to be sold.’ (*a will delivered orally to witnesses)

It wasn’t until July of 1816, motion was granted **S Haines**, Attorney, real estate of late **Josiah Blakely** sufficient to pay debts (and) be sold. But in April 1818, it was granted further indulgence of six months moved by **Henry Hitchcock**, Attorney, to be allowed for **Comers**, for settling estate of **Josiah Blakely**. (*January 1814, Josiah Blakeley was guardian for Celia & Mary Sherman, granddaughters of Charles Conway, dec’d of Conway’s estate*)

An excerpt from 1927 column “Dropped Stitches from Mobile’s Past” by Erwin Craighead, at the time editor of Mobile Register, in writing about Josiah: “Josiah Blakeley himself survived the obscurity that veils his farm from further view. He was a man of

importance in the little community. He had large vision, and originated the plan to found a town over against Mobile was for the back country on the west side of the bay. Further inducement being that there was greater depth of water on that side, ships of large draft than could (not) approach Mobile could make landing there. Extensive trade with the Creeks was a good prospect. Blakeley soon made its rivalry felt, became to be an important place competing with Mobile across the bay.

Josiah's town continued to grow even after his death as in 1820, we find not only legislation for regulation of the port and harbor of **Blakeley** but an elaborate act for government of the corporations. But then series of events saw Blakeley begin to decline; Mobile take on new life. Today, there is an ancient row of trees marking where main street ran, a pure water spring on a hillside and a lonely graveyard in distant pine woods. Craighead writes "there is painful significance in the early deaths registered in this burying ground of so many adventurous persons who came south only to fall victims of the climate, or, ... the mosquitoes of that pioneer era." Of Josiah Blakeley there is little known, than he is said buried in his town's cemetery, gravesite unmarked by time.

Source: Compilation of this article due to query from *Wayne & Terri Blakeley*, Michigan residents camping at Blakeley State Park; Probate Court of Mobile County, AL; *Connecticut Journal* newspaper, New Haven, CT 1799-1805; *Charleston Courier* newspaper, Charleston, SC, Dec 1805 p 3; *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*, Alexandria, VA pg 2; *Political Observatory*, Walpole, NH v III, is 114 pg 2; *Colonial Mobile*, Peter J. Hamilton; ExploreSouthernHistory.com: *Blakeley State Park, Alabama*; Familysearch.org: *Blakeslee/Blakeley*; Ancestry.com: *Blakeslee/Blakeley*, Jesse; Findagrave.com: *Blakeley/Blakeslee*; *The American Historical Magazine*, v III 1898 no 1, Dept. of History, Tenn. Centennial, G.P. Thurston; *Mississippi Territory, Minutes of Orphans Court, 1814*, Mobile County p1; *Abstracts of Orphans Court Minutes, Mobile County, Alabama, bk I 1813-1837* Clinton P King & Meriem Allison Barlow, c1987; *Dropped Stitches form Mobile's Past*, The Baldwin Times newspaper, Bay Minette, AL, Sep 1927 pg4; *Township Plots of Selected States*, Series T1234; Roll 4, National Archives and Records Admins.; *Private Land Claims in Alabama*, pgs, 39,41,43, v 2, Secretary of State's Office, Montgomery, AL. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian FPL



Gravestones are among the few remains of Blakeley and few of stately oak trees that remain, reminder of town of Blakeley, now part of Historic Blakeley State Park



Today, Cochrane-Africatown Bridge on the northern side of Blakeley Island



Today, eastern entrance of the Bankhead Tunnel on the southern side of Blakeley Island.



Nature meets History in Blakeley State Park



*Cajun Pirogue may be similar to what Josiah used