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

Volume 29 No 2

February 2021

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents

## WHERE IS IT? WHAT DID I DO WITH IT? Secrets to Organizing Your Genealogy

IF you ever needed a reason to stay home *with* the encouragement of the Covid 19 virus, *with* the need to organize and/or store your family research, now is the time to do it!

IF you think you are already organized, use this as a checklist to see if you really are up to snuff! IF not, here is a good start on Feb 13th at 10 am, Meeting Room, Foley Public Library.

Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Foley Public Library's Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, will share a few tricks and methods to help you organize your family research mess, tossing it with a bit of humor. Handouts will be available to remember where you put it. Handouts will also be available in Genealogy Collections for those who cannot attend meeting.

**Seating is limited to only 20 so call or email to reserve: Tina Graham 251-978-2137 or [tdrcgraham@yahoo.com](mailto:tdrcgraham@yahoo.com)**

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

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### In Memoriam

#### **Captain Samuel Wren Adams 1935-2021**

Sam Adams, age 85, died 11 January 2021. He was a retired U. S. Navy Captain, long-time resident of Foley, AL, and the husband of Mary (Raftery) Adams, a long-time member of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society. After number of years serving in Naval Services in many locations, Sam and his family returned to live in Alabama in 1988, to enjoy retirement. He leaves behind his loving wife Mary, daughter Erin Adams, sister Angela (Priester) Watson Bess and many valued family and friends all over the world. His services were held at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Foley. Burial at future date in Arlington National Cemetery. We extend our condolences to member Mary and her family.

#### **Alexa Marie Rigsby 1990-2021**

It is with sadness we extend our condolences to Baldwin County Genealogical Society Member and acting president, Tina Graham in the loss of her granddaughter Alexa Marie Rigsby, age 31, who died on February 3, 2021. Alexa was born in Dallas, Texas, lived in Daphne, Alabama, and was loved and cherished by many especially her parents Lyndy Rigsby and Greg Rigsby, her grandmothers, Joan Chipps and Tina Graham, her sister Shelby Rigsby and her nephews, Jace and Tate Jordan. Services were held Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, in Fairhope, Alabama. We wish the family well.

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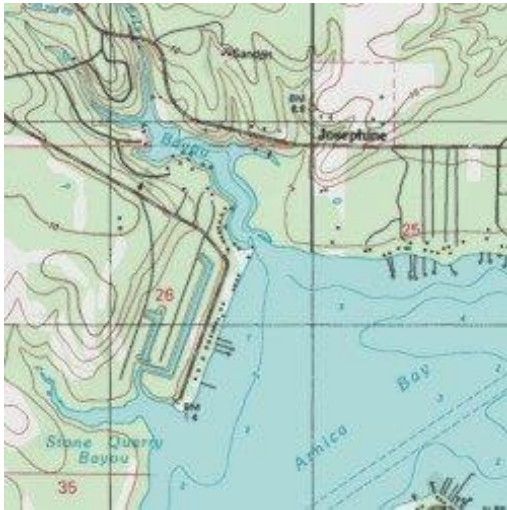
### Bits and Pieces

Search new United States records added at **FamilySearch.com** for Indiana WWII Draft Registrations 1940-1947; Iowa Marriage 1941-1951, Indiana Marriages 1811-2007 and Montana County Voting Records 1884-1992, plus German, Bavaria City Records,

1700-1940, Prussia Census Lists 1770-1934, Peru Piura civil Registrations 1874-1996 and expanded collections for Austria, Brazil, England, Peru, S. Africa, Spain, Sweden and the US (CA, MD, MS, MT, SD, WA, and WI).

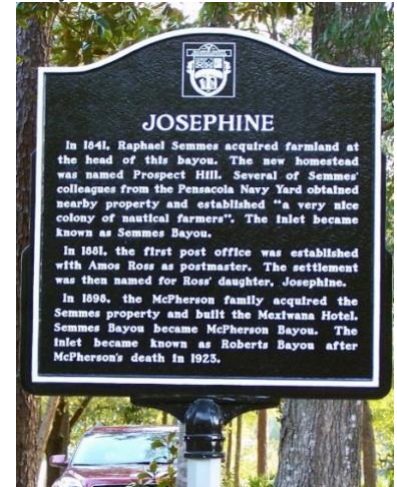
FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Josephine Community- designated a Baldwin County



### Historic Site

Josephine, Alabama – a historical marker is located in a small park on Josephine Drive in Josephine, Alabama. The park is located on the bayou today called Roberts Bayou which flows into Arnica Bay to the south.



Earliest documentation on any property in the **Josephine Community** area dates 1840 from Marin Van Buren, President of the United States as part of a Spanish land grant to Joseph Suarez, certificate 6681, tells **Austin Ballard** in his recorded oral history. **Benjamin Austin Ballard** (1913-1997) a native of Josephine, married in 1942 to **Lillian Walker** (1918-2013). Both were loyal resident of Josephine Community, eager to share the history, giving tours to selected few to the 'lost' cemetery deep in the timbers of Josephine.

The tract of land of Joseph Suarez is known now as **Ross Point** taking in the eastern half of Josephine. It has changed hands several times through the years: **Dudley Walker**, **Thomas Asplund** and in 1858, **Amos Ross**, who built the house later known as the **Ross-Climie House**, later yet, the **Moss Oaks** house. The settlement was named after **Josephine Ross** in efforts to get a post office established along the bay. **Amos Ross** was appointed postmaster 4 Oct 1881.

**John M. Climie** bought the **Ross** property setting up businesses as **J.M. Climie and Son** where he established sawmill, shop, subdivided and sold lots to build houses. This is when it became known as **Moss Oaks**.

In 1898 **Southern Land Company** mapped Josephine for the McPherson family. **Lorah Smith Eich**, daughter of **Guy T. Smith** and **Elsie McPherson**, writes that **Leon O. McPherson** was the postmaster along the waters of Perdido Bay. Mail, including freight, was brought by his boat, the *Mexiwana*, from Millview, Florida, around to the various post offices on Perdido Bay, the run ending at Josephine where the first post office was right on the water, a long wharf running out into the bayou. Later, **Corine Climie** would serve as postmistress for more than forty years.

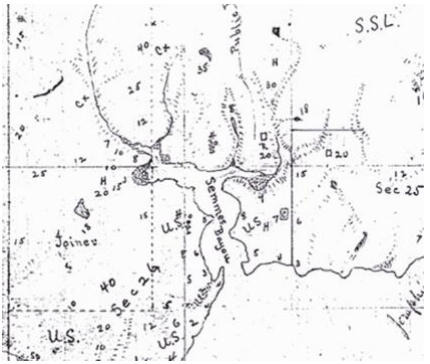
**Lorah Smith Erich's** grandfather **McPherson** built a two-story hotel which was popular summer place especially for residents of Selma and Birmingham, Alabama. **P. J. McCarty**, managing the **Ross** "cottage" for **Mrs. L. O. McPherson**, leased the **Climie** homestead in 1912. It was described as "the most delightful place on the Bay." **McCarty** was adding several rooms and remodeling to suit his increasing business calling it **Point Comfort**.

The **Mexiwana Hotel** burned in the 1935 with property later sold to **Max Lawrenz, Sr.**, who established a turpentine mill in settlement. Virgin pines were farmed for turpentine, allowing for portable turpentine camps. **Austin Ballard** remembers the camp on the road into the Josephine community where workers would live, cook and even had a portable commissary for merchandise.

A bakery owned by **Josef Tagsherer** and his wife, **Elizabeth**, was also on the water side, few hundred feet to the east of the hotel. One of the early settlers in Josephine, **Tagsherer**, in 1914 constructed, in the old world style, a Brick Bakery Oven. The bread loaves were placed in the brick oven *after every trace of the fire had been removed*, the heat retained by the special bricks slow-baked the bread to a delicious crust and texture not obtainable even in homemade bread. This bread was supplied regularly to Perdido Bay settlements. Later, the oven and bakery were moved to **Foley, Ala.**, where the **Foley Bakery** became a landmark near **L & N Railroad Line**.

**Josephine** was established as small village when **Lieutenant Raphael Semmes** purchased property and built a home here called **Prospect Hill**. Semmes was stationed at Pensacola Navy Yard to do a survey of the coast of Florida and the Gulf Coast. With other navy personnel settling here it was soon called "a pleasant colony of nautical farmers" It was noted in *Montgomery Times*, April 1916, "The death in this city of **Raphael Semmes (1849-1918)**, son of **Admiral Raphael Semmes (1809-1877)**, calls to mind the

lovely home once owned by the distinguished Confederate naval officer. It was stated in the notice in *The Times* that **Raphael Semmes** was born on Perdido river in Baldwin county. It was more than likely he was born at the summer home of **Admiral Semmes** at **Josephine, Ala.**”



Southern States Land Company Survey, 1898



Schinkert home on Roberts Bayou c.1913



S.S. Mexiwana, mail supply boat



Josephine Post Office



Ross-Climie House built ca 1871-72

Adding to the history of Josephine community is **Pirates Cove** representing 87 years of accumulated history. Pirates frequented the coast for over one hundred and thirty eight years preying on Spanish galleons hiding within the bayous and back bays such as Perdido Bay to the east and slipping into channels beside where is known as Pirates Cove into Roberts Bayou. Hiding in these bays and bayous, they would go out, attack ships and vessels leaving ports of Pensacola and Mobile. The naming of **Pirates Cove** as those who seek such and still believe yet treasures are still buried near.

In 1940s, **Max Lawrenz** built the now infamous **Pirates Cove** marina on south point of **Roberts Bayou** facing **Arnica Bay**, the quaint building, serving as marina, general store, post office and tavern with **Andrew and Ella (Vasser) Jay** as managers. **Paul and Elsie “Kitty” Mueller**, son **Paul**, became owner-operators the Cove in early 1957. **Paul H. Mueller**, associated with a German newspaper in Chicago for many years before coming south, had only been in Alabama two weeks when he died at age of 53. “Miss Kitty” and her son Paul continue operating the Cove and, today, two grandsons continue the legacy.



Pirates Cove ca 1940s



Pirates Cove today



Looking SE from Pirates Cove over Arnica Bay

Sources: *Josephine*, Baldwin County History Files, Foley Public Library; *Josephine Transcript*, oral history of Austin Ballard, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, FPL; Letter to Doris Rich, April, 1980, from Mrs. Henry V. Eich, Montgomery, AL, Baldwin Co, Hist. Files, FPL; *Baldwin County Home of Raphael Semmes*, *The Baldwin Times* newspaper, Bay Minette, Ala., April 25, 1916 pg 1; *The Onlooker*, 1912; *Record of Appointment*

*of Postmasters, 1832-Sep 30,1971, Roll 1, M841,m National Archives; personal knowledge of Jeanette Frank Bornholt.  
Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Foley Public Lib.*

### **Bits and Pieces**

**Is it illegal to say Gesundheit** which literally means Bless you in German? (in United States)

“During World War II, it was made illegal to say “Gesundheit”, and that law has never been repealed.”