

YORE LORE

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

Volume 29 No 3

March 2021

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents
DEBRA KUHL
**'HAVE COLONIAL ROOTS? CHANCES ARE YOUR ANCESTORS
WERE INDENTURED SERVANTS'**



MARCH 13, 2021
10 A.M. MEETING ROOM, FOLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Debra Kuhl asked if you have ever wondered how your colonial American ancestors were able to travel from their homeland to America? Besides being uncomfortable and inconvenient, the trip was very expensive. One way many people solved this problem was through indentured service. This presentation will discuss the indenture contract, the deal, the journey, working conditions and the treatment of the indentured servants.

Debra and her husband, married for 48 years, have traveled and lived in many states as she followed her careers. Debra has a doctorate in High Education Administration from the University of Arkansas. She has served as a professor, Vice President of Academics and also writes children's books. Retired and having lived in Florida for 8 years now, Debra is currently serving as Vice-President of the West Florida Genealogical Society in Pensacola

Seating is limited to only 20 so call or email to reserve: Tina Graham 251-978-2137 or tdrcgraham@yahoo.com

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Obit Committee meet every Wednesday, 1 p.m. in Genealogy Collections Room
BCGS Board Meetings will continue to meet at 10 a.m. Board Room.

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BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING 13 Feb, 2021

GUEST SPEAKER: Jeanette Bornholt on "Organizing your Genealogy"

CALL TO ORDER: February 13, 2021 BCGS general meeting was called to order at 11:06 by President Tina Graham with 16 members present. Tina thanked members for sympathy card sent to her.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING- Are published in "Yore Lore"

There was no general meeting in January due to time frame allowed by Zoom. All time allotted to the speaker Burt Outlaw.

TREASURER'S REPORT: May Alanko stated there was a balance of \$1047 in our checking account. Plus she had checks to deposit and a check for \$75 payable to Jeanette Bornholt for supplies (coffee, stamps etc.) and a check for \$100 payable to the Foley Public Library as part of an agreement to help pay for their new projector.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Maureen Lee stated that there are new members at this time.

Sunshine: Maureen Lee has taken over sending cards and correspondence from Dot Brown at this time.

Obituary: Tina Graham stated the obituary committee meets every Wednesday at 1 o'clock in the Gen. Dept. Dept.

ACQUISITIONS: Tina Graham stated that since all new acquisitions are published in the "Yore Lore", they don't need to be addressed in meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: Since there was no election in 2020 due to COVID-19 all officers are acting officers and will continue until the election in June. We need someone to fill the office of president and vice president. Tina Graham stated she would take over as treasurer if someone else will take the presidency.

NEW BUSINESS: March 2021 will be the 35th anniversary of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society . Hopefully we will be able to start streaming our meetings so that the ones unable to get out can watch the meeting. The March meeting will be “Have Colonial American roots? There’s a good chance your ancestors were indentured servants” By Deborah Kuhl. The meeting will be held in the meeting room and due to COVID-19 we are limited to 20 people so be sure to sign up at the Foley library in the genealogy room or let Tina Graham know to reserve your spot.

Richard Washburn brought up getting a Past-President plaque to display to honor our past presidents. Tina said she would check into it.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The April 10, 2021 meeting is on “Researching German heritage tracking down a family legend.”
By Janell Duxbury.

HOSTESSES: were Jeanette Bornholt & Tina Graham

DOOR PRIZES AWARDED: 0

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned to meet again 13 March 2021 at 10 AM in the Foley library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted

Billie Nardell

Secretary BCGS

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It’s as if a whole new language was being written then

from: The Escambia and Baldwin Times (newspaper) Brewton, Ala., May 25, 1887 page 3:

Ironstone China cup and saucer 15 cts. sett (12 pieces.) Any man who drinks coffee out of a gourd now, ought to be shot. **PRYOR & Co. Williams Station, Ala.**

Married: In Pensacola on the 19th inst. Mr. **James M. Daugett** of Monroeville to Miss **Mollie De Rioboo** of Pensacola. May the matrimonial bark of this married couple sail smoothly over the sea of life without a rifle or a wave to disturb them is the hearty wish of THE TIMES.

Mr. **J. F. Cotton** living about five miles from here on the Bellville road, brought to this office Monday last five teeth which he extracted from a rattlesnake a few days ago. There was fourteen teeth in all but he could not get but five of them, one of the teeth will measure over an inch – the snake had eight rattles and a button. The teeth can be seen by calling at this office.

Go to **R. R. Barrow** and get your corns cured.

Try the “SLOGGER” Cigar 5 cts at W. R. JONES & CO

from: The Onlooker (newspaper) Foley, Ala., April 12, 1928:

Advertisements: Farmers: At Prices You Can’t Beat Wash Pots, Andirons, Chilled Plows, Window Weights, Stove Repairs, Repair Parts for Saw Mills, Cave Mills, Disc Harrows, Plows ---anything. WE WANT SCRAP CAST IRON. Brass, Bronze and Aluminum Castings. **FOLEY FOUNDRY**

PERDIDO BAY HOTEL On Perdido Bay Lillian, Alabama Best accommodations At Reasonable Rates -- Ladies Parlor – Electric Lights – And Music Room, Hot and Cold running water Bath – Good Fishing, Hunting and Bathing every day in the year. **Phillip Ickler Prop.** Telephone 521

from: The Baldwin Times (newspaper) Jul 25, 1901 pg 4:

DAILY HACK LINE – From Bay Minette to Montgomery Hill. – For the convenience of the public I have established a daily hack line between Bay Minette and Montgomery Hill. Hack leaves Bay Minette every day at 1:30 o’clock p. m. for Stockton, Latham and Montgomery Hill, returning arrives at Bay Minette at 11 o’clock a. m. daily. Connect with Mr. Pleasant hack at Montgomery Hill. **J. D. MAYO.** *(for your information: Hack” was a shortening of the word “hackney,” a type of sturdy, horse-drawn coach that served as a taxi and mail delivery vehicle in that period)* *Source: 19thcenturywellington.wordpress.com/*

LATHAM aka RED HILL ... RED HILL aka LATHAM ~ two are one in Baldwin County



Red Hill artesian well capped Nelson House aka Reynolds House, 1912. Latham

Latham Methodist Church, 1906

Red Hill, in the northwest section of Baldwin County, east of **Hubbard's Landing**, with infamous Red Hill Spring, are situated in same area as Latham community today. **Robert Leslie Smith**, born 1918, a native of Latham, remembers it being called **Latham Spring**, **Mathers Spring**, **Nelson Spring**, and, of course, **Red Hill Spring**. The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** duties in the 1930s included building roads; one being the present day Co. Rd 96 (Old Caney Road) connecting Co Rd 47 to State Highway 59 in Latham. The natural spring "emerged oozing from a hillside when the highway was being constructed near Red Hill Creek and had spread across the new road in a spot about 30 feet wide, soon the hill was a quagmire," Smith writes. The natural spring was captured with pipe to be used easier by locals and travelers to fill jugs with clean, pure water.

Latham Cooper was a native of New York and the person for whom the town of Latham was named, although he settled in Mobile. The Post Office was established in the year 1878; the first Postmaster 1880 with **Mrs. Henry Cooper**, whose husband was the son of **Latham Cooper**. The last postmaster was **Luella Ferguson** who served as the assistant Postmaster. The office was discontinued on February 29, 1960 and moved to Stockton, Alabama.

Julius Elvin Howell, a crop reporter traveling extensively through the county during 30s and 40s, remembers "large landowners and farmers in Latham such as the **Bryars, Coglin (Coghlan), Ferguson, Hadley, McGowan, Smith, Maynard and Ganey**. **Coglin** married **Bessie Nelson**, and lived on the old **Nelson place** while he farmed, turpented, and handled a large herd of open range cows."

Charles Maynard "C M" Coglan married in 1923 to **Mary Elizabeth "Bessie" Nelson**, daughter of **Edward G. & Beulah Nelson**. Bessie kept the post office as well a country store. She and Charles also operated a big sawmill and ice plant. The **Nelson House** built in 1912, also known as the **Reynolds House**, is significant as a Creole Cottage style of architecture and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The **Latham Methodist Church** was organized in 1847 by **Margaret Ferguson** under the ministry of **Rev. Drue**; the first church being a log house. The second church was built ca 1852 by **Henry Harris**, a Baptist, and used as a Union Church. It was enclosed with a fence to keep out cows and goats. A place for baptizing was enclosed with boards in nearby Red Hill Creek. The Methodist build the third church in 1906 with **Thaddeus Ferguson** donating the logs used in the building. **Thaddeus Wasrshaw Ferguson** was born 1837 in Latham, died 1915, and is buried in the **Latham Methodist Cemetery**. Professional carpenter **Rawleigh Pruitt** built the church assisted by volunteers **Ransom Mathers** and **LaVelle Ferguson**. The church with its Gothic Revival architecture is on the National Register of Historic Places and is still in use today.

Mary Amelia Tunstall born May 23, 1857 in nearby Montgomery Hill, married **Thomas McGowan** in 1881, moved to Latham where she lived to celebrating her 100th birthday. She remembered the booming of cannon during the Battle of Spanish Fort when she was a child of seven years. She also remembered when a brigade of "Yankee" cavalry passed through Latham and Tensaw. **Mary Amelia McGowan** died one day after her 102nd birthday.

September, 1896, news item: "**Guy McGowan** and sister **Annie** of **Latham** were guests at the **McDonald House**. In 1901, **Guy McGowan** and his bride **Sallie Brazile** of **Atmore** returned from their wedding trip, housekeeping on the old **McGowan** homestead near Latham." **Guy McGowan** (1864-1921), son of **Thomas Guy** (1832-1895) and **Julia A. (Mathers) McGowan**, married in 1902 to **Sara Elizabeth Breazeale** (1864-1941), daughter of **D. M. And Carol (Avery) Breazeale**.

In 1897, it was noted in a news item "**Miss Fannie Belle Skipper** accompanied **Rev. C. B. Bates** to his appointment at **Red Hill**. She seems to be a favorite with the young gentlemen." **Rev Bates** preached the second Sunday in each month in the **Methodist Church** in Red Hill, preaching in Oct 1902 "a very forcible sermon and based his remarks upon the subject 'Regeneration'"

In 1902, an ad ran in newspaper: **NELSON'S MAIL AND PASSENGER LINE. BAY MINETTE TO MONTGOMERY HILL.** Hack leaves Bay Minette daily at 1:30 o'clock p.m., returning leaves Tensaw at 5:30 a. m. Fare from Bay Minette to Montgomery Hill \$1.00 **Latham** 75c, to Stockton 50c.

Year 1902 saw such as this note in the **Latham** news column: “Two souls that have but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one, were joined together in the solemn bonds of matrimony near Montgomery Hill on Sunday June 1st, - **Miss Holmes** and **Mr. Cooper.**”

Unfortunately there was news such as: “Sheriff **G. B. Bryant** and Deputy **T. A. Booth** carried Mr. **John B. Bryars**, an unfortunate crazy man of **Latham**, to the insane hospital at **Tuskaloosa** Monday.”

In a notice of the Land Office at Montgomery, September 25, 1902, **William M. Mobley**’s Homestead entry was witnessed by **J. B. Bryars, I. Minchew, T. D. Smith, Gabe Minchew**, all of **Latham**, Alabama.”

October, 1902, **T. H. Davis** was for several months a “diligent and successful manager of the turpentine business of the American Naval Stores” in **Latham** leaving for Mississippi to accept a good position. He made many friends on “account of his excellent manners and appearance” and apparently captured a “fair prize” winning the heart of one of Latham’s foremost society girls.” The County Commissioners awarded for the fourth time in August, 1904, the free scholarship in the **Alabama Medical College** to **Dr. J. Floyd Bryars**, of Latham.

The year of 1906 saw notice of “sealed bids to be received by the undersigned of **Latham**, Alabama, for clearing, grading, and removing stumps on twelve miles of public road beginning at **Stockton** and running north on **Mt. Pleasant.**” Bidder had to furnish horses or mules necessary to operate said machine. Work was subject to approval of undersigned; right reserved to reject any or all bids, and on top of that, the successful bidder was required to furnish security in the amount of \$1000 to insure the faithful performance of the contract. Notice was signed by **Frank Bryars**, County Commissioner, District No. 1. (*We could take lessons of such contracts in this day of 2021 as editor writes this article.*)

The end of 1906 saw Latham as “The Christmas holidays passed quietly and pleasantly. There was not an intoxicated person, white or black, seen in our neighborhood. Everybody was in good humor and jovial, the children were blissfully happy. This is as it should be when we celebrate the birth of the child who came to Bethlehem, our Savior and King.”

But sadly in March, 1907, **Thos. Bennefield**, colored, of Latham, was drowned while running logs on Major’s Creek. In lumbering, moving sawn tree trunks/logs from forest to saw and pulp mills often used the current of a river; a main transportation method in early days of logging industry. It was a dangerous occupation with the drivers, such as Mr. **Bennefield**, standing on the moving logs and running from one to another breaking up jams, keeping the logs moving smoothly.

In February, 1909, a fire broke out on **E. G. Nelson**’s land coming from **Quincy**. It burned over ten thousand turpentine boxes and nearly burned up the **D’olive** place, which **Mr. Nelson** owned, burning down the fence and coming with seven inches of the barn. **Gabe Minchew**’s and **Walter Hadley**’s places escaped.

Summer of 1916 headlines ‘Ice Cream Supper at **Red Hill School House**,’ is certainly of what kids dream for supper. The end of the year saw **Lillie Wetzel** visiting the school teaching the children to make pine needle baskets. She also organized a Womans’ Club and taught them how to make a fireless cooker and gingersnaps. Miss **Agnes McKendrick** took charge of the **Red Hill School**, February, 1918. Later that year it was noted “watermelons were in season, people sitting in the shade and eating them.” They also met in the school house later to pledge to buy War Savings Stamps. The chant was “Sing a song of war time, A country full of camp. Fifty million patriots, Buying War Savings Stamps.” (World War I, July, 1914 – November, 1918)

October 2, 1919, **Harmon C. Hanson** was wished good success as he was a new teacher at **Red Hill School**. By the 16th, “Harmon C. Hanson who was teaching the **Red Hill School**, left last week with the expectation of taking a much higher position.” Now without a teacher, it would be until January 5th, 1920, when Miss **Mildred Paulson** came to teach. By Oct of 1920, **Red Hill School** was consolidated with **Bay Minette Public School**, students being brought everyday by cars. In 1929, bids were received on the school building and 2 acre lot. Such was the early life in Red Hill aka Latham, Baldwin County, Alabama, as it continued.



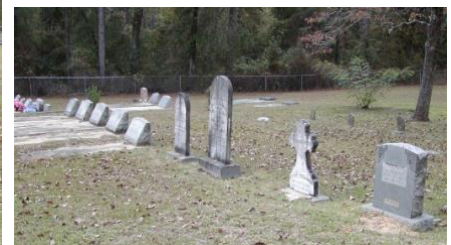
Historical Latham Post Office est 1880, moved in 1960 to Stockton



Latham Methodist Cemetery



Julia A (Mathers) McGowan 1828-1900



Headstones, Latham Methodist Cemetery

