

# YORE LORE

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

Volume 29 No 7

July 2021

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents  
“The Fourteenth Colony,  
forgotten story of the Gulf South during America’s Revolutionary Era”  
**MIKE BUNN**  
**Director, Author, Historian**  
**July 10, 2021, 10 a.m Meeting Room, Foley Public Library**



Mike Bunn, Director of Historic Blakeley State Park, Spanish Fort, AL, historian and author, presentation will be on his latest book “The Fourteenth Colony, the forgotten story of the Gulf South during America’s Revolutionary Era.” Join us to find out if Baldwin County was part of the British Colony of West Florida and part of the Forgotten 14<sup>th</sup>!

Mike Bunn, an author and historian, has worked with cultural heritage organizations in the Southeast. He, author of several books on Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, is editor of *Muscogiana*, the journal of the Muscogee County (Georgia)

Genealogical Society. He is also director of the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission. Mike earned his undergraduate degree at Faulkner University and two master degrees at the University of Alabama. He also completed a graduate certificate in public history at the University of West Georgia. Mike and his family reside in Daphne, Alabama.

Web site: <http://baldwingenealogy.org> or Baldwin County Genealogical Society – Home | Facebook

**All meetings are open to all interested public.**

~~

**DUES were Due in June, please.**

**Upcoming programs:**

**August 14 – Olivia McCarter, Univ. of South Alabama student** majoring in anthropology, is a **forensic genetic genealogist**, will present program on uses DNA analysis , online genealogy databases to match, build family trees and identify suspects and victims.

**Sept 11, 2021 – Paula Lenor Webb, Author and Librarian at USA Mobile**, her latest book, “*Such a Woman: the Life of Madam Octavia Walton LeVeret*”

**Oct 9, 2021 - Janell R. Duxbury, Retired emeritus UW-Madison Senior librarian (BS, MS, MA)**, author of three genealogy journal articles: “*Researching German Heritage: Tracking Down A Family Legend in Meckleburg-Schwerin*”

**Nov 13, 2021 – Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library:** “*Genealogy 101 Workshop*”

**Dec 11, 2021 – BCGS Christmas Potluck:** “Around the Table at Christmastime”

Obit Committee meet every Wednesday, 1 p.m. in Genealogy Collections Room

BCGS Board Meetings will continue to meet at 9 a.m. Board Room.

**PLEASE NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:**

*The Board is in process of updating our website and looking for input, suggestions from BCGS members on what you would like to see included or changed. You may email: [baldwingenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:baldwingenealogy@gmail.com) Thank you.*

~~

## BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING June 12, 2021

**MEMBERS/GUEST** 19 members/11 guest TOTAL

**GUEST SPEAKER** ( see Yore Lore) Jeanette Bornholt "A Spoonful of Whiskey"

**CALL TO ORDER:** Barbara Thompson vice president called the meeting to order at 10 AM. President Peg Power is out of town for a while. Barbara introduced the new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year.

Barbara introduced the guest speaker Jeanette Bornholt.

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING-** Are published in "Yore Lore" The minutes of the May 2, 2021 meeting were approved as printed in the "Yore Lore".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by Treasurer Tina Graham \$951.36 bank balance. BCGS membership dues are due now.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**By-Laws:** Barbara Thompson reported that we are putting finishing touches on the By-Law revision but we will wait until September when President Peg Power returns before voting on the By-Laws.

**Membership:** Maureen Lee reported one new member at May meeting Bob Burnnett

**Sunshine:** Maureen sent 5 get well cards last month

**Obituary:** Tina reported Obituary are up to date on current Obits and the Committee is still working on the obits from the early 1900's.

**Programs:** Barbara Thompson stated she has speakers/ programs lined up for July thru Dec 2021. Calendar information will be published in the Yore Lore and Facebook. Press releases and flyers will be distributed to the media. July's program is Mike Bunn, Director of historic Blakeley State Park.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Barbara now has possession of the BCGS wireless microphone. The Foley Public Library now has new computers and sound system. They will help get our microphone hooked up and working soon

### NEW BUSINESS:

- We are now in need of a 4 Director / Executive Board Member due to Auriette Lindsey asking to be removed from the board. She will still work on our web page and Facebook page as Web Master.
- Mark Olazabel has agreed to redesign and update our web page at no cost. He has agreed to work with Auriette and Barbara to make it more up to date and functional.
- Barbara also stated our email address is [BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com)
- Barbara stated that those making Announcement from the floor will have a 5 minute time limit.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- On July 10, 2021 Mike Bunn, Author & Historian, who is Director of Historic Blakeley State Park, will speak on "The Fourteenth Colony" The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America' Revolutionary Era.
- In August, Olivia McCarter, is an investigative genetic genealogist with Redgrave Research Forensic Services. "Solving Cold Cases Using Investigative Genealogy"
- November 13, 2021 Jeanette Bornholt will do a program " Genealogy 101 " ( Condensed Version) for those new to Genealogy or those who want ,need or just do a refresher course.
- In 2022, we are planning A Genealogy Workshop over a period of several weeks.

### HOSTESSES:

We like to thank Jeanette Bornholt for the refreshments.

The hostesses for the July 10 meeting will be Pat Brummett and Linda Gatewood

**DOOR PRIZES AWARDED:** There were 3 door prizes awarded

**ADJOURNED:** The meeting was adjourned to meet again on 10 July, 2021 at 10 AM in Foley Public Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted: Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

## From here and there....

Alabama Historical Commission has let notice the **Twin Beech Community Cemetery**, 18507 Twin Beech Road, Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, has been added to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. The Alabama Historical Commission considers historic cemeteries particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition. Listing on the register is an honorary designation.

There are now 12 cemeteries in Baldwin County listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 914 cemeteries statewide. *Leanne Waller-Trupp, Coordinator, Historic Markers and Cemetery Programs.*

# HISTORY OF FOLEY, BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA



Looking west, intersection Hwy 59/98



Foley Depot ca 1908 (Doris Rich Collection)



Laurel Ave (Hwy 98) looking west



John B. Foley Sr., 1920s

John Burton Foley, described as “progressive, honest and venturesome,” was a successful businessman in Chicago, Illinois, engaged in the manufacture of patented formula remedies for the relief of the average family ills, among these was the famous *Foley’s Honey and Tar* for coughs and colds as well as many other household remedies. Mr. Foley was also successful in the printing business equal to the medicine business in volume. Both his businesses had a national reputation requiring a salesman in every state as well at Latin American countries.

Mr. Foley also took part in politics, was a Republican committeeman putting him in contact with men of national importance. J. B. Foley tells of when President McKinley was shot in 1901, he traveled by train with other successful businessmen to the funeral. In a general conversation in the smoking car, Mr. Foley made the remark that the “way for man who had money to invest was to go someplace where land was cheap, buy up a lot of it, hold it until it became valuable.” Overhearing this remark was John M. Green, a realtor from Baldwin County, Alabama, who represented the sale of all the cutover timberland of Southern States Lumber Company/. One thing led to another and after due consideration, Mr. Foley purchase fifty-five thousand acres some ten miles long and five miles wide, today reaching from Elberta, to Magnolia Springs. But instead of holding this land, he decided to develop it, build a town in its center, and thus the **city of Foley** was created named after himself.

Surveying the town one and half miles long north and south, one mile wide east and west, with streets one hundred feet wide, Foley had lots surveyed for downtown businesses and residential lots. Now he was ready to bring people as the only people living here were few scattered native people, and those associated with loggings and turpentine camps. At the time, the L&N Railroad went only as far as Bay Minette so J. B. Foley donated twenty-five thousand dollars toward rail ties to bringing a spur line to Foley. The railroad station, built in 1905, burned to the ground three years later, was replaced following year with the station that sits on this site today.

The ‘Pine Knot Special’, a wood burner, was the first engine on the line making a morning trip to Bay Minette, returning in the afternoon. As people cleared the lands, they would make piles of lighter knots in wood box for the engineer to use as needed. (*Lighter knots also known as fatwood, is the heart pine, resin remains of the pine tree.*) In the early days of Foley, the railroad was its life blood, bringing settlers in from the North, getting crops to northern markets. The Magnolia Hotel was built in 1908 by J. B. Foley to house visitors, future settlers as they came by train from Chicago, St. Louis, as far away as Nebraska, and mid-western states.

Foley was incorporated in 1915 with a mayor and council elected. G. I Weatherly served as its first mayor but resigned in October of that year; C.A. Bollar, Mayor Pro Tem served the balance of the term. One of Mayor Bollar’s first acts was to pass a hog law preventing free range. During James Dumas term as mayor, a town ordinance was passed to prohibit free running goats with “piney woods cattle” next with stock law.

The incorporation of the town led Foley to be the forerunner of what Foley is today, built in a progressive matter by these early settlers. There was the Foley Light and Power company, forerunner of Riviera Utilities; a sawmill, an ice plant, concrete walks and street crossings, a town marshal who also served as the operator of the light plant, a sewage system. In an effort to control the Typhoid germ, there were ordinances for garbage control. The city council installed building code ordinances after losing almost all of downtown Foley to a fire that spread rapidly from one wood building to another. All strong foundations for the future of the town of Foley.

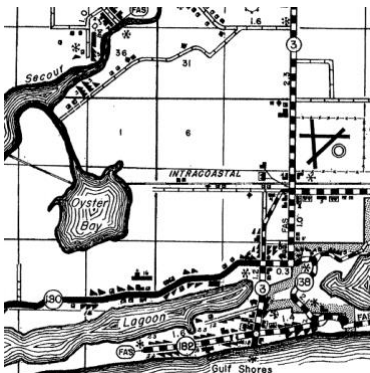
Farmers were encouraged to settle in Foley by growing wide variety of crops year round. ‘Truck farming’ of vegetables on an extensive scale was especially suited to the area primarily for shipment to distant markets as Chicago, New

York, and St. Louis. Irish and sweet potatoes, cucumbers, okra, watermelons were popular to name a few, most shipped by rail car north. At one time, twenty-one cars of the cut flower gladiolus, were shipped throughout the country with three cars moving daily for a full week.

Orchards of satsumas, tung oil trees, pecans and peaches were planted. Acres of field and sweet corn, wheat, oats, even cotton, and other field crops, were planted with Foley as the hub for 'potato sheds' built along side the railroad tracks for ease of loading rail cars. At one time seven potato sheds were lined the length of mile and half as farmers' trucks and wagons of crops were unloaded, graded, put in baskets, bagged or sacked, ready for shipments. Irwin, Cortes, Brown, Hamburg, to name a few of the sheds. To say farming was a major occupation, by 1976, the Foley potato farmers gambled on harvesting an \$8 million crop. All the while tree farming for pulpwood was very popular.

There was a banner sign near Berry Street in Foley proclaiming "Highway 3 to the Sea." Up until 1957, Highway 59 south was Highway 3 while Highway 98 was 89. The automobile and the craze for motor touring had created a new industry in the south, entertaining tourists. As early as 1916, the "tourist crop spells cash with a capital "C" with the average tourist was worth \$100 to the community," proclaimed The Foley Onlooker newspaper.

By 1926, it was suggested to have a tourist camp at Foley either public or privately owned but fully equipped with the necessary convenience for the visiting motorists. After all, "Foley would make an ideal centrally located campaign spot for those who wished to see the many fine fishing, hunting and bathing places along our coast." Methods offered for entertaining tourists were varied and sometimes unique. Even today, tourism plays and will always be a part of Foley as the 'Gateway to the Gulf of Mexico.'



1950 Hwy 3 is Hwy 59 today to Gulf

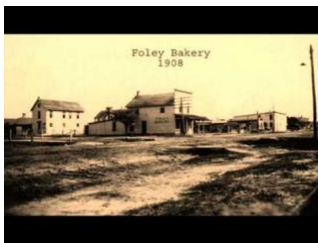


McKenzie St (Hwy 59) looking north



Magnolia Hotel looking west from Heritage Park on McKenzie St (Hwy 59) (Hotel Magnolia site)

What you see today of the city of Foley is a neat, orderly town, well laid out in streets, parks, businesses, churches; known as a family oriented town; a city of trees, historic buildings and locations; Gateway to the Gulf of Mexico. Much history lurks here in Foley, Alabama.



Foley Bakery building is seen looking northeast, intersection Alston St./U.S. 98



Left, Foley Bakery is shown, photograph taken by Nelson Hamilton, 1940s. At right, the empty building as on Nov. 8, 2012, restoration planned by City. (Marc. D. [Anderson/manderson@al.com](mailto:Anderson/manderson@al.com))

Sources: *History of Foley, Ala.* (and founding of Foley told by John B Foley to James T. Dumas), by James T. Dumas, copy donated by Edward Kryder, descendant; *Foley* by James P Kaetz, Auburn University, Encyclopedia of Alabama; *Foley Council aims to preserve downtown's 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest building* by Marc D. [Anderson/manderson@al.com](mailto:Anderson/manderson@al.com); *Family History Files: Foley*. Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library; *Foley*, Baldwin County History Files, Foley Public Library; *Foley Street scene* photo, 9 Oct 2013, Gary Busby, Al.com Contributor; *Southwest Alabama Streets*, Postcards Traveling Exhibits, Troy University, Troy, AL; *City of Foley-Foley, AL*: Alabama Historical Markers on Waymarking.com; *Finding Fatwood*, www.instructables.com; *The Magnolia* (Hotel at Foley, Alabama contributed by John Snook to Mrs Davida Hastie, pg 59-60, Baldwin Historical Quarterly v. 1 no 3, 1974; *Heritage Harbor Days, 18 Oct 2011* given by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Foley Public Library; *Truck Farming*, Merriam-Webster; *Foley potato farmers gamble on harvesting \$8 million crop* by Phillip Rawls Advertise Staff Writer, The Montgomery Advertiser, pg 9 Jun 1976; University of Alabama Maps; *Tourist crop spells cash ...* The Onlooker, May 1916; *Tourist Camp Next*, The Onlooker, pg 4, Dec 1926; *Making a Living on Tourist Travel*, Fairhope Courier, pg 6 Dec 1926. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library.

