

# YORE LORE

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

Volume 29 No 8

August 2021

## Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



### **Olivia McCarter** USA Student ; Investigative Genetic Genealogist **“Solving Cold Cases Using Investigative Genealogy”**

**August 14, 2021, 10 a.m. Meeting Room- Foley Public Library**

Olivia McCarter has been interviewed by WALA Fox10 News Mobile in January 2021 and has appeared as guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Mobile, AL in April 2021

Olivia is a twenty-year old student at the University of South Alabama majoring in anthropology. She also is an investigative genetic genealogist with Redgrave Research Forensic Services where she helps law enforcement around the continent close decades-old cold cases, including the case of an unidentified eighteen-month-old toddler thrown off of a bridge in Jackson County, Mississippi in December of 1982.

Olivia’s presentation will be about what investigative genealogists do in order to solve these decades-old cold cases for law enforcement; how they use GEDmatch. She will give an in-depth look into the genealogy used to solve the 1984 murder of nine-year old Christine Jessop. Olivia will be going over case synopsis for a few of her cases but will talk about some of the actual genealogical work she did for the notorious Christine Jessop murder case.

### **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

Email: [BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com) with your name. Maximum seating: 50.

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

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

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

#### **Upcoming programs:**

**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.*

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**BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING July 10, 2021**

**MEMBERS/GUEST** 35 total (20Members 15 guests)

**GUEST SPEAKER** ( see Yore Lore) **Mike Bunn** “**The Fourteenth Colony**”

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Vice-President Barbara Thompson.

Barbara told of the loss of one of our Charter Members, Berdine Rittenhouse and member Jeanette Bornholt husband Eddie.

There was a memorial placed on the front side table in honor of Berdine. Dot Brown spoke a few words about Berdine.

Barbara then introduced our guest Speaker Mike Bunn, Director , Historic Blakeley State Park.

#### **INTERMISSION**

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING-** The minutes were approved as published in “Yore Lore”.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Tina Graham gave the Treasurer report: June 2021 beginning balance \$ 951.36, deposits \$194.00, expenses \$75.00 with an ending balance of \$1070.36.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Maureen stated we had three new members sign up last month.

**Obituary:** Tina stated the Obit Committee still meets on Wednesdays at 1:00, and are up to date.

**Sunshine:** Maureen Lee sent two sympathy cards this month. One to the family of Berdine Rittenhouse, who passed away July 6, 2021. She was a Charter member of the BCGS. And to Jeanette Bornholt on the death of her husband Eddie who passed away July 4, 2021. Thank you cards were sent to Larry Cooley for a monetary donation and the donation of back issues of “The Yore Lore” 1995 -2018.

**ACQUISITIONS:** There were no Acquisitions made for the Month of June.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Barbara thanked the By-Laws Committee for their hard work on the By-Laws about 5 months. Tina Graham, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, presented the Revised By-Laws to the General membership to be voted on. Mike Glass made the motion to accept the Revised By-Laws as sent to general membership by email, Joe Webb seconded the motion. **All Ayes, no Nays.** Revision stands as written. Tina then thanked the By-Laws Committee, Maureen Lee, Billie Nardell & Peg Power for their hard work and thanked Colletta Bailey for her help in proofreading.

A Questionnaire was sent to all members concerning the update of our web site to be turned in at the July meeting. There were blank forms on the sign-in table if members need a copy. These questionnaires will be used to redesign and update the site.

Board Vacancy- June 12 General Minutes stated we needed a 4<sup>th</sup> Director. After some research it was concluded that we already had a 4<sup>th</sup> Director in accordance with the By-laws.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Barbara wanted to thank Don Ouellette for the work he has done in sending out the “Yore Lore”, and all the correspondence that he does. He has been undergoing radiation treatment and still has be able to distribute the newsletter and other correspondence in a timely manner.
- Dot Brown requested that we add a new item to the agenda at the General meeting called “Genealogy Minute”. This will be from 1-3 minutes long about tips and tidbits in Genealogy.

**GENEALOGY MINUTE:** Dot Brown explained how to figure out the COUSIN REMOVES (ex: cousins 1X removed, or 2X removed) from your family tree

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** The August 14, 2021 meeting will feature Olivia McCarter on Solving Cold Cases Using Investigative Genealogy.

**HOSTESSES:** Barbara thanked the Hostess for this month Pat Brummett and Linda Gatewood.

**ADJOURNED:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am. to meet again on 14 August 2021 at 10 AM in general meeting room of the Foley Public Library. Respectfully submitted: Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

### **Alabama Local History and Genealogy Collections**

#### **DONATIONS:**

Baldwin County Genealogical Society:

The Assault on Fort Blakeley, the thunder and lightning of battle by Mike Bunn

Battle for the Southern Frontier, The Creek War and the War of 1812 by Mike Bunn and Clay Williams

**Creole Style Historic Homes in Baldwin County, Alabama**

## (Thematic Group Creole and Gulf Coast Cottages in Baldwin County, Alabama)

The **Creole** and **Gulf Coast Cottages** in Baldwin County represent some of Alabama's most distinctive folk housing. Though these cottages differ in detail, they share some basic characteristics, including distinguishable one-and-a-half story gable roof, recessed porch which covers the full façade. The **Creole Cottage** is noted for its massed floor plan with no interior hallways, a French building preference. Chimneys are typically interior with back to back fireplaces. **Gulf Coast Cottages** feature a central hall plan (an Eastern Seaboard influence) and exterior chimneys as heat was not desired in the hall.

Twenty-four **Creole** and **Gulf Coast Cottages** were inventoried in the Baldwin County Architectural Site Survey. Half of these were constructed before 1880 and the other half between 1880 and 1912. With one exception, the **Atkinson-English Place** (1840, Tensaw), all the pre-1880 cottages are located along the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Some are featured here, but certainly not all. All are listed in National Register of Historic Places in Baldwin County, Alabama.

**Nelson House, also known as the Reynolds House**, located in **Latham**, was added to the National Register of Historic



Places. Its 1988 nomination asserted it is locally significant as the "purest example" of **Creole Cottage** style of architecture in Baldwin County. Built in 1912, the **Nelson House** is a one-story frame four bay windows resting on brick wall foundation, two interior chimneys on its gabled roof each with back-to-back fireplaces. Recessed front porch covers full façade and expansive gable ends are clue to the original builder providing room for a half story which was never added.

In June of 1899, **Edward G Nelson** and his wife left **Bay Minette** in an attempt to escape yellow fever, settling in **Latham**. Nelson ran sawmill, gristmill, blacksmith shop and bakery while farming, raising cattle, sheep, chickens and pigs. There were five tenant houses and a commissary on over 3700 acres with Nelson providing land for his children from this acreage. In 1912, Edward's son **Early** constructed a house on fifty-five acre plot with lumber from his father's mill. In 1972, Earl's daughter **Ruth** and her husband **Forrest Reynolds** acquired the

property.

**Allen-Marshall House**, a historic home in Bon Secour, sits on north bank of the Bon Secour River on portion of William



Kennedy Grant. Constructed ca 1880 by **James and Louisa Allen**, it is one of the oldest standing **Creole Cottage** homes and residence still in habitation; has been in the **Allen family** since late 1850s or early 1860s. The original house was constructed of logs, has over the years been modernized to keep up with the times and to preserve it from ruin of Mother Nature.

James, an Englishman who came to the United States in 1840, made his living as an oysterman. He and Louisa had eight children, one of who was a boiler maker. **James Allen** died in 1905 and the **Marshall family** acquired the property in 1930.

**Orrell House**, historic house on Co Rd 6, Bon Secour, Alabama, is a **Gulf Coast Cottage** built ca 1900, also known as **Burnette House**. It is significant as an unaltered rural example of **Gulf Coast**



**Cottage Style** with recessed porch, gable roof, exterior chimney, and central hall. The gable roof with boxed cornices is oriented parallel to the road and covered in slate shingles. The only changes are the shed roof back porch has been filled with drop siding and is utilized as a kitchen and laundry room.

Taking advantage of rich timber and farming, **William R. Orrell** bought several hundred acres in Thomas Johnson Tract. He obtained a lot which fronted on Oak Rd (Co Rd 6), erected a small **Gulf Coast Cottage** around the turn of the century. Working as a machinist in sawmill, Orrell, his wife and four daughters continued to reside in this location until he sold th house and lot in 1969 to **Wyburn Burnette**, the present owner.





**Street House**, Co Rd 3, **Point Clear**, is classic example of **Gulf Coast Cottage** style with its central hall, gable roof, dormers, recessed porch and slight elevation. The attached “rain porch” is a significant local adaptation common on **Point Clear** house. The feature, providing protection from sun and rain, represents a still finer adjustment to what was already style most suitable to the Gulf Coast. Even more so, the **Street House** was constructed as a year round residence inland, not as a summer or vacation house along the bay as were most Point Clear houses.

It was built in 1906 for **William Street** whose residence on Weeks Bay was destroyed A farmer, **Street**, sons **Charles and Luther**, farmed the land until his death shortly after 1906. The house has remained in the family; by 1980s and was renovated by present owner, **H. Vaughn Street III**, in 1984. Listed on National Register since December 1988.



**Texas-Dryer-Brunell House**, Dryer Ave, Daphne, constructed in 1835, moved less that ¼ mile in 1907, is significant as one of the oldest building in Baldwin County. Also significant as a rare two story **mixture of Gulf Coast and Creole Cottage elements**; example: central hall on first floor with multiple entrances in the balcony and slight roof kick-off over the porches.

In 1833, **William L Howard**, purchasing over a hundred acres on bluffs of Mobile Bay’s Eastern Shore, within a small community, **Daphne**, then called **Bell Rose**, he constructed a large guest house with attendant cottages on his land, naming the cottages, one being **Texas**. After Howard’s death, his widow sold the property to **William Dryer** in 1894 who continued the complex as hotel. In 1907, **Dryer** moved the **Texas** on an adjacent lot and it served as residence for Dryers and subsequent owners through the years.



**Nicholson-Nelson House**, Co Rd 6, on Oyster Bay Road, historic home is significant as an intact **Gulf Coast Cottage** in its original setting. The gable roof, recessed porch, central hall are all features of the style. Its property land run along a canal to the **Bon Secour River**. Also significant because it is raised necessitated by the marshy land alongside the river which is unlike other rural examples of this style in Baldwin County.

Built ca 1875 was by **John Nicholson**, a native of Denmark, who worked as an oysterman in Bon Secour all through 1880s. After his death, the property passed though succession of owners until the **Nelson family** acquired it in 1925.



**Hamner-Roberts House**, Co Rd 6, Bon Secour, near the Bon Secour River, is significant in being relatively unaltered, full sized **Gulf Coast Cottage**. A story and half, raised on wooden pilings, the gable roof, recessed porch, a central hall are classic features of the **Gulf Coast Cottage** style as is the five bay façade, a rarity on the inland examples.

Constructed by **Will C. Hamner** who acquired the land in 1881. **Hamner** sold the property in 1896 to **Drewsilla Roberson**. The original lot, almost 50 acres, was subdivided and sold over the years. The original house and 1.3 acre plot was purchased in 1982 by **Jerry and Carolyn Roberts**