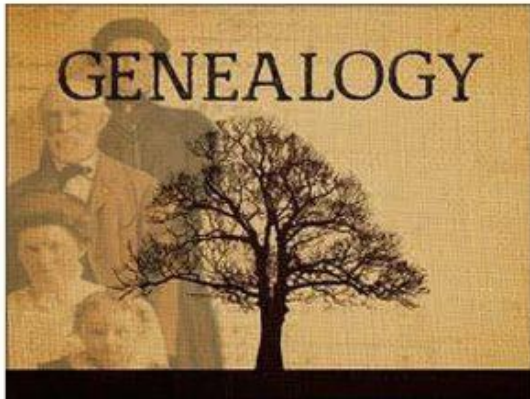


YORE LORE

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

Volume 29 No 11

November 2021



Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents Presents Guest Speaker

“That Library Lady” Jeanette Bornholt *Genealogy 101 (condensed version)*

November 13, 2021

10 a.m. Foley Public Library, Meeting Room,
319 East Laurel Avenue, Foley AL.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for all members for each meeting you wish to attend, deadline dates given for each meeting. Email: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com with your name. Confirmation email will be sent.

Maximum seating: 50.

RESERVATION DATES: October 15-November 10, 2021

A native of Elberta, Baldwin County, Jeanette Bornholt often tells folks she “lives here, works here and plays here” She has been with the Foley Public Library over 30 years and is head of the Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, the largest in Baldwin County.

Jeanette has been doing family research for over fifty years, has an avid interest in and enjoys speaking about local history as well as genealogy. She has been honored with lifetime membership by the Baldwin County Genealogical Society. Jeanette is an award winning artist, and is continuing with honey sales her beekeeper husband Edward began a number of years ago. But her foremost occupation is family as mother of three, grandmother and great-grandmother.

All meetings are open to all interested public.

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

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Upcoming programs:

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.

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NEED HELP IN YOUR FAMILY TREE RESEARCH?

Beginning **October 28, 2021**, **NORMA DeBROW** has volunteered and will be available to assist in researching family trees on regular basis on **Thursday afternoons, 1 p.m. until closing time**, in the **Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections** of the **Foley Public Library**, 319 East Laurel Ave, Foley, AL 36535

Come in or if you wish to set up a time, you may contact Norma at her email: debrowgn@gmail.com or call: **318-422-7681**.

A member of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society, Norma has been researching two decades and is knowledgeable with DNA results. There are no charges for Norma's expertise in assisting with research.

BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, October 9 , 2021

MEMBERS/GUEST 19 members & 8 guest total 27 Present

GUEST SPEAKER (see Yore Lore) Lou Vickery Alabama Creek Indians

CALL TO ORDER: The 9 October 2021 General meeting of the BCGS was called to order at 10:01 am by Vice-President Barbara Thomason. After welcoming members and guest Barbara introduced our guest speaker Mr. Lou Vickery. After the Speaker Colette Bailey spoke a few minutes about the WW 1 & WW 2 exhibit in Elberta at The Baldwin County Heritage Museum .

After a short break the meeting was recalled to order at 11:35am.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING- Are published in "Yore Lore." There were no corrections to the September General Meeting. Minutes stand as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tina Graham reported had a starting balance on 01 October of \$942.27. Deposits for the month \$84.00. Expenses (4 books purchased) \$71.61. Leaving an ending balance of \$954.66.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sunshine: Maureen Lee stated she sent a Sympathy card to the family of Dot Brown.

Membership Maureen stated 6 new members joined in September. Alice & Ralph Griffin, Sheri Marshall, Lois Marie O'Konek, George Barker Stein & Paula Webb.

Obits Tina Grams stated obits are up to date

Acquisitions- There were a total of four books purchased in September. Three books purchased from author Paula Webb (September's Speaker) were *The Mobile Mayor's And Court Reports 1864*, *The Mobile Mayor's And Court Reports 1865*, and *Such A Woman-The Life of Madam Octavia Walton LeVert*. Also a Memorial for Harold Wells called *Norwegians in Minnesota*. Barbara Thomason donated the book *My Maman Grete* by Micheal Stermann

GENEALOGY MINUTE: BARBARA Thomason had a handout titled "A Guide To Tracing American Indians & Alaska Native Ancestry "

OLD BUSINESS: The Foley Public Library Halloween Extravaganza will now be a drive through running from 4-6 pm. If you would like to help see Tina Graham.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dorothy "Dot" Brown was the last surviving Founding Member of The Baldwin County Genealogical Society. She passed away 26 September 2021. Additional information will be passed along as soon as we find out. There was a memorial table set up in the meeting room.

Barbara Thompson states she had a request for any information in the Masaryk Library in Robertsedale. If you have any information please let Barbara know.

UP COMING EVENTS:

The November General Meeting speaker will be Jeanette Bornholt speaking on "That Lady at the Library: Genealogy 101.

The December Meeting will have music and a pot luck to celebrate Christmas, no general meeting.

HOSTESSES: The hostess for the October meeting were Tina Graham & Maureen Lee with a special thank you to Joe Webb and Barbara Thomason for funding the refreshments.

DOOR PRIZES AWARDED: 7 door prizes were awarded

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm to meet again on 13 November 2021 at 10 AM in Foley Public Library meeting room. Respectfully submitted, Recording Secretary Billie Nardell



Alabama Historical Society announces Baldwin County Cemeteries listed in the Alabama Historical Cemetery Register September 22, 2021.

The Baldwin County Genealogical Society received news three more historic cemeteries have been added to the State's official listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama: Shellbanks Baptist Church Cemetery, Gasque Community; Navy Cove Cemetery, Navy Cove/Pilot Community; (also know as the Lost Cemetery) and Coburn-Lagoon Cemetery (New Miller Memorial Cemetery).

There are now 17 cemeteries in Baldwin County listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 943 cemeteries statewide.

Photos Top: Shell Banks; Bottom: Cogburn-Lagoon aka New Miller Memorial Cemetery

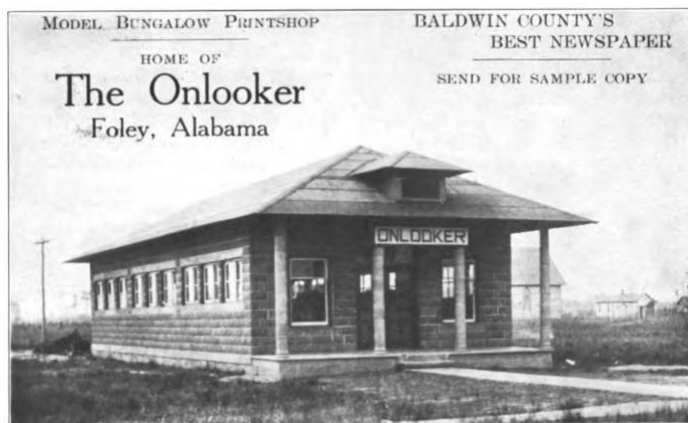
Frank Fesler, Founder of the Foley Onlooker Newspaper, 1903.

One of the earliest documents of **Frank Fesler** as founder of the newspaper *Onlooker*, is *The Inland Printer* which gives a description of the home of the newspaper by its editor/publisher, **Frank Fesler**.

**FOUNDER OF
THE FOLEY ONLOOKER**



FRANK FESLER, first editor of The Foley Onlooker, who came to Foley almost 16 years ago when there was practically nothing in Baldwin county but pine trees. Mr. Fesler seen the then barren and "wild country" transferred into one of the most productive and valuable sections of the state. Five years ago Mr. Fesler went to Owensmouth, Calif., where he now edits The Gazette.



Reproduced from post - card issued by The Onlooker

Ideal Home of a Country Newspaper features the photograph shown above as home of the Foley (Ala.) **Onlooker** with **Frank Fesler**, the proprietor who calls it a "model Bungalow Print-shop," and describes it thus: "the new home of the **Onlooker** is of concrete in imitation of stone, 22.8 by 60 feet, with ten-foot ceiling, has light all around, concrete foundation for gasoline engine and Hoe newspaper press. I have two jobbers, five double stands full of type, three imposing-stones, paper-cutter, etc. The Onlooker is a four year old, eight-column folio, home print, and doing pretty well, thank you." The picture indicate that Mr. Fesler is not troubled by very close neighbors, and his home must be a very prominent feature in the landscape of Foley. The prominent sign, with no other advertising matter on the walls or in the windows, shows good judgment, and it stands out like the principal line in a well-displayed ad, states *The Inland Printer*.

Second of early documents showing **Frank Fesler, Editor and Publisher**, is in the *N. W. Ayer & Son's Newspaper Annual and Directory*, 1912, listing "**Foley**, pop. #300, with **Baldwin County** population at 18,178, **Louisv. & Nash. R. R.**, Tel., Exp., Bank, Potato growing and general farming" describing the area. *Onlooker* (newspaper) issued on

Wednesdays, Republican, 1907, with 4 sheets at 20x22, subscription of \$1.50, yearly subscriptions totaled \$1,072. *History of Kansas newspapers* states the "Onlooker, independent: founded 1903 by Frank Fesler."

Fesler, son of **W. H. Fesler**, was born in 1873 in New York, married teacher **Kate Dresbach** in Feb 1907 in Franklin, Ohio. By 1910, Frank was back in Foley with wife and daughter **Janie** age three. In October, 1910, a local advertisement displayed the "**Fesler & Coenen Real Estate, Insurance, Rents, Loans, Etc.**", with slogan "Try us at any angle" Daughter **Foler S.** joined the Fesler family in February, 1911, son **Paul** joined by 1913.

Fesler was owner, listed as an editor, managing editor, business manager and publisher of the *Onlooker* which was stated as free from bonds, mortgages, or security holders, sworn to and subscribed before P. J. Cooney, notary public on 30 July, 1913. Fesler was an advocate for the farmers of south Baldwin County writing in their defense for criticisms in a *Demopolis Times* article about sweet potato farmers "banked" their potatoes rather than sell, to wait for a better price than 35 cents a bushel. Fesler replied with almost full column testimony defense of the farmers' reasons. **Fesler** also was authorized by the **Magnolia Springs Land Co.** to "sell all of the unsold land lying North of the Section line in the town site of Foley at \$150 for the first acre, \$125 for additional acres."

Frank Fesler had many talents, one was as a poet. *Lawyers and Poetry* writes "**Frank Fesler** is a lawyer and newspaper owner ... [H]is work has appeared mainly in newspapers." His works were published: *Lady with a Flair: Lyrics and Poems*. Fesler was also editor of the *Labor Record* in Kansas City. His newspapers were often filled with his wit, humor and philosophy, one such in 1910: "Getting something for nothing, is like getting a tooth pulled under laughing gas, make you act foolish and leaves an after pain and a void." As early as 1907, Fesler published a musical composition of "much merit, writing both words and music."

Recorded September, 1922, **Fesler** sold the *Onlooker* newspaper to **Frank Barchard Sr**, an assignee of **N. J. Lillard**; same date selling his and Kate's property to **Frank Barchard**. Fesler had already been appointed U. S. Postmaster in **Owensmouth, Los Angeles, CA**. He became editor of the *Owensmouth News*, then bought the *Inglewood Gazette* newspaper where his son **Paul** would be associated with his father. He later sold the *Gazette* to become engaged in real estate business.

In June 1954, the *Los Angeles Times* noted **Frank Fesler** died, his wife **Kate** preceding him in June, 1946. He left survivors daughters **Flora Hughes, Janis Diamond** and son **Paul Fesler**, nine grandchildren. Both **Frank Fesler** and his wife are buried in Inglewood Cemetery in California.

Great-granddaughter **Susan Ney**, visiting here from California, claims her ‘wandering spirit’ from her great-grandparents, **Frank and Kate Fesler**, who traveled through many states leaving their footprints, including **Foley, Alabama**. The original *Onlooker* building still stands on Mckenzie Street with a different front entrance but the “concrete imitation stones” remains on back part of the building.

Two reminders of Onlooker’s founder, editor and publisher Frank Fesler “footprints” remain for us to ponder in society today as when they were printed.

In 1941:

A *Triolet About a Debt
Too many ciphers in our debt
Means billions we must really pay:
As debtors we shall long regret
Too many ciphers in our debt:
Unless defaulters get their way
And thus annul the debt some day
Too many ciphers in our debt
Means billions we must REALLY PAY.

In 1950:

In Happier Day
Back when the dollar was worth 100 cents we sue to get a haircut for 25 cents and the barbershop was a happy place.
Now it costs \$1.25 and barbershop is not a happy place.



Photo taken by Nelson K. Hamilton, considered Foley’s official town photographer. Courtesy of his son, David.



Foley Onlooker building as it looks today on N. McKenzie St. one block north of Highway 59 & 98 intersection

Sources: Susan Ney, Glendora, CA, g-granddaughter of Frank Fesler; *The Inland Printer*, Vol XLVIII, Oct 1911-Mar 1912, Chicago, Ill pg727; *N. W. Ayer & Son’s Newspaper Annual and Directory: a Catalogue of American Newspapers*, 1913, v. 1, pg 30; *History of Kansas newspapers*, by William Elsey Connelley, 2017, pg 217; ‘Frank Fesler’: *Strangers to Us All: Lawyers and Poetry* website: [Edith warren (ed.), *Important American Poets* 727 (NY, Valiant House, 1938)]; *Lady with a Flair: Lyrics and Poems* by Frank Fesler, Philadelphia: Dorrance & Co., 1939; *The Onlooker newspaper*, 1903-1918; *Evening Tribune*, Feb 1907 pg 4; www.newspapers.com;

*Triolet, **eight-line poem** (or stanza) with a rhyme scheme of ABaAabAB: first line is repeated in the fourth, seventh lines; second line is also the last line (the capital letters indicate repeating lines)

