

# YORE LORE

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

Volume 30 No 1

January 2022



Baldwin County Genealogical Society  
Presents Speaker  
**Jeanette Bornholt**  
**“Plantations in Baldwin County”**  
**January 8, 2022**

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

**RESERVATION DATES: Dec 15, 2021 to Jan. 5, 2022**

Plantations, specifically in Lower Alabama, Baldwin County, were meant for farming that specialized in cash crops. Early French Colonist had established a few plantations in late 1700s, early 1800s. In the eighteenth century, over 60 plantations were established along the major waterways around Mobile.

But early settlers pushing westward from Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas, are the ones who introduced plantations and architecture that would come to dominate Baldwin County's richest farmlands. Jeanette will introduce you to many of these Baldwin County plantations, their location, their history. Come and be prepared to be surprised!

Jeanette, a native of Baldwin County, is a descendant of settlers in early 1800s came to Baldwin County claiming acres of timber and farm land, building large homes to accommodate their families and those with working the land. This is the basis of her love for sharing local history.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** for each meeting you wish to attend, deadline dates given for each meeting. Email: [BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com) with your name or call Barbara Thompson 251-424-4681. Confirmation email will be sent. Maximum seating: 50.

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:

**Feb 12, 2022: Guest Speaker Mary S. Palmer** – Presentation on her book “Boyington Oak, a Grave Injustice.”

**Mar 12, 2022: BCGS Board presents** – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Baldwin County Genealogical Society

**Apr 9, 2022: Guest Speaker Colletta Bailey** – “Advertising Rag Dolls,” Focusing on Food Products from 1900-WWII.

**Obit Committee** meets 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?

**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. If you wish to set up a time, you may contact Norma at her email: [debrowgn@gmail.com](mailto:debrowgn@gmail.com) or call: **318-422-A** 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, December 9, 2021

23 member & 11 visitors present with total of 34 attending.

The Baldwin County Genealogy Society enjoyed an eventful morning on December 8, 2021. There was no General meeting of the Society but all had a great time listening and singing along to Christmas music provided by the Eastern Shore Ukulele Group.

There was plenty of food as everyone brought food and desserts. A birthday cake was to help longtime active member and Society photographer, Ms. Lennie Harris celebrate her December birthdays as well as others with December birthdays to celebrate a very happy birthday.

December was also the time to celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of several members. Tina Graham had a lifetime membership to present to May Alanko and Barbara Thompson a lifetime membership for Evan Strohl, both who were unable to attend. Maureen Lee presented a Lifetime Membership to Tina Graham for all her hard work with the BCGS. (*editor note: Evan Strohl is one of the original members of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society and May Alanko, long time serving as treasurer of the Society. Tina Graham has filled in many offices in her time as membership including president of the Society for number of years.*)

After presentations and musical program, everyone sat around reminiscing about Christmas' past, favorite times, food or traditions. A table displayed old, well-loved, well used cookbooks for everyone to see.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

### NEW YEAR's Classic Traditions from Our Grandparents ...

Common New Year traditions that come to mind are parties, eating certain New Year's foods, making resolutions and fireworks displays. Many of these have been passed down through generations. Here are a few:

Previous generations in particular practiced **setting resolutions** for the upcoming year.

Our predecessors likely **stuck to their goals/resolutions** so we may want to have the same perseverance.

**The New Year's Tree** goes back to 1600s, easily transitioning your Christmas tree to suit the celebration.

Dressing nicely was Christmas tradition but as well for **New Year's Eve 'dressing up' celebrations**.

**Sparkling streamers** may lost some in tradition but not in south where kids and adults hold up sparklers.

**Grandparents' roots may show certain traditions** such as the Scottish "Auld Land Syne" song.

**New Year's Eve food traditions** may differ according to cultures, such as eating Lentils.

In the South, especially in Baldwin County, traditional foods may consist of black-eyed peas and collard greens (for wealth), ham or pork (for prosperity) and cornbread (for gold) If you make the *Louisiana Hoppin' John* recipe, you will incorporated all three and with cornbread on side.

Some **Christian churches have some religious significance** regarding of New Year's such as 'Watch

Night' services, particularly in African-American communities. For Catholics, the *Solemnity of Mary* is a Holy Day of Obligation to attend Mass on New Year's Day. Knowing party goers will be out late the night before, many Catholic churches offer a vigil Mass Option on New Year's Eve as well.

While champagne is considered the **New Year's Eve drink**, Holland's mulled wines, the Scottish's "hot pint," the English's *Wassail* (cider-like punch) as well as the German's shot of whiskey, may be in your traditional New Year's Eve or Day drink.

The longstanding **bringing in the New Year at midnight with loud noises** was traditionally the shooting of guns, common in the American Colonies. Our grandparents blew noisy horns, rang bells (church bells included). While it is considered the Chinese New Year custom, fireworks is definitely heard and seen in displays in south Baldwin County, Alabama.

According to The Old Farmer's Almanac, **gift giving continued on New Year's Day**. Coins and nuts was an old Roman ritual but you could also give eggs or as the Scottish who also traded shortbread, coal and silverware. In the little German town of **Elberta, (Baldwin County, AL)**, gathering in groups to surprise someone in their home at breakfast time was also good time to bring extra eggs, bacon, bread ... and beverage of choice.

There's the tradition at **the stroke of midnight of kissing (the person you hope to keep kissing) and singing "Auld Lang Syne"**

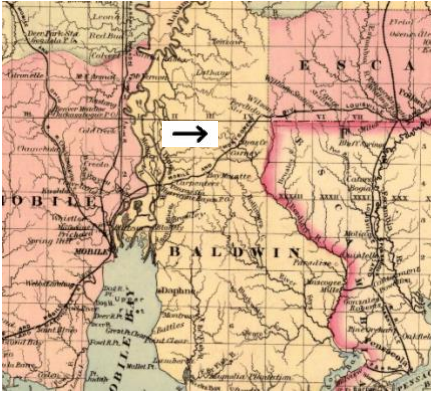
**And always thanking, expressing gratitude for the One who made an impact on your last 12 months.**

**Happy and Blessed New Year to you and yours, dear friends.**

*Yore Lore Editor*

# Carney, a village built by J.A. Carney, L& N Railroad and Catalpa Trees

## Baldwin County, Alabama



Alabama 1881 Frank A. Gray, Gray's New Map of Alabama, Gray & Son, 4878 (1881) Alabama Dept. of Archives & History.  
brother being **William H. Carney**, owner of large tracts of land and sawmill in **Atmore, AL**.

**Alex K. Hall**, serving in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Cavalry during the Civil War, wrote a letter home to his mother addressed from "**Camp Hunter, William's Station**" It was also called **Carney**. There was talk to change **Williams Station** to **Carney** after **W. H. Carney** who owned a sawmill in Williams Station, but since his brother **James A Carney** had established town of **Carney** nearby, the name **Atmore** was chosen instead. That's clue how close in distance was from each town.

**Carney** was situated northeast of **Bay Minette** near county line of **Escambia County, AL**. Listed in census of 1890, **Carney** had population of 100 and was location of an express office. As many communities in Baldwin County, **Carney** was created and built upon the abundance of lush timberland. From 1883 to 1913, (Capt.) **James A. Carney** had land warrants for 37 parcels in the area beginning with 120 acres.

As early as 1899, there was **Carney Lumber Co**, with incorporators of **W. T. Hand, W. F. Green, Zack L Nabors**. By 1913, **Carney Land & Development Co. Inc** was created with **James A Carney, W. Corwin Frank** and **Elliott G. Rickaby**.

**James A. Carney**, b 1833 North Carolina, married **Lousia A. D'Olive**, b 1847, daughter of **Louis D'Olive**, of **D'Olive Plantation** north of Bay Minette. James' older

The **Louisville & Nashville Railway** encouraged land owners in planting **Catalpa trees** in lands of timberlands cutover for lumber. **Catalpa Plantations** sprang up principally all over Alabama but the main plantation was at **Carney** in Baldwin County described as 30 miles north east of **Mobile**. Here, **James A. Carney** purchased 1040 acres that in 1906 and 1907, trees were planted, set 7x7 feet. Over 600,000 trees were shipped in December and planted on the farms. Because catalpa timbers could endure constant wear and usage for twenty to thirty-five years without decay, it was expect that in seven or eight years from time of planting, the trees would be large enough for cross ties for railroads, also mine timbers, poles for telegraph and telephone lines. This would supplant the white oak used but was no longer obtainable and no artificially treated timber had ever equaled the catalpa for durability.



Comparative Growth of Yellow Pine 30 years old, and Catalpa (right) 9 old.



Catalpa Speciosa for Telegraph poles



Plowing at Arboretum, Carney, Alabama: Twenty-two plows were years running in February preparing the land to receive 400,000 Catalpa Trees, Baldwin County.

Residence of Capt. Carney, Baldwin



James A. Carney, County, Alabama.



Bay Boat Steamer James Carney on Mobile Bay with sailboat traffic

in. After many years of service the Carney was withdrawn from the Eastern Shore Service in 1905.

In December, 1896, an ad stated: "*FOR SALE – Two good mules in first-class working order will be sold at a bargain. James a. Carney, Carney Station, Ala.*" By 1903, large saw mill plants were located at **D'Olive, Fish River, Tensaw, Stockton, Carney, Marlow, Perdido, Magnolia, Bon Secour, Hurricane Bayou** and other points in the county. But in August, 1909, the large mill of **Hand Lumber Company** (*D'Olive plantation*) shut down after nearly quarter century. It was built in 1885-86 by **James A. Carney, Sr.** who also owned and operated the large saw mill at **Carney**. The **D'Olive** mill as operated by Carney was regarded at that time as a big mill but many additions had been made to it. In 1893, Carney sold the business to **J. D. Hand** which borne the name of **Hand Lumber Company**. In 1902, the business was bought from Mr. Hand by a corporation at **Marion, Ind.**

**Carney** also brought fame to community when **James A. Carney** as President of the **Baldwin County Fair and Racing Association**, the county would, again, win first prize for the county's exhibit in the Tri-County Fair held in **Pensacola**, November of 1909. It would then be taken to **Chicago** and entered in the **Land Congress** display with no prize but "*advertisement would be the best that could have possible been gotten up.*"

**Carney** was the only delegate appointed residing outside of the large cities of the state to the **National Rivers and Harbors** Convention, 1913, outside large cities being small community of **Carney, Alabama**. He also ran in the Senatorial race from County district against **H. H. Holmes**, 1914.

In 1918, **James A. Carney** bought out and took possession at once the **Alabama Naval Stores Company** at Carney. Prior past two years, **A. B. McPhaul** had managed the Naval Stores Company. In the same year the **Carney School District**, No 30, operated for a period of four years from 1919 to 1923; managers **Jas. A. Carney, O. R. King** and **W. J. King**. Returning officer was **A. B. McPhaul**.

In 1919, there was an imperative need for an increase in personnel of the inspection force in **State Board of Health of Alabama's** in each county. October first, **J. A. Carney** was added to the inspection personnel; his particular duty being the inspection of hotels, but later included records kept for all hotels, cafes, barber shops, soda fountains, meat markets, bakeries and miscellaneous types of establishments.

In January, 2018, **Laura Ellen "Peggy" King Dekker**, age of 91, died; born in Carney, Alabama, later a resident of Bay Minette. Her parents are given as **Orpheus Nimrod** and **Lenora (Doran) King**. Her parents, a brother and many other family are buried nearby Perdido Baptist Cemetery, but Peggy requested to be cremated and have her ashes scattered in Carney.

Created from Yellow Pine timberland and the L&N Railroad's need for Catalpa trees, the community of Carney lives on in hearts of those born and growing up within the area.

Sources: *Arboriculture, a journal of the forests*, International Society of Arboriculture, vol II Jan 1908 no 1, pg 8; *Gardenia Creating Gardens*, <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/catalpa-bignonioides-aurea>; *Heritage of Baldwin County*, c 2001, pg 8, 51; *Confederate Camps: Baldwin County History Files: Atmore was first named Williams Station – It was almost named Carney*, by Donna R. Causey; *Alabama Pioneers: General land office Records: Bureau of Land Mangement: Land Search: Alabama Secretary of State: James A Carney: Ancestry.com: Bay Boat Steamer the James Carney ...* (digital/collections/fpl01) Fairhope Public Library; *Annual Report of the State board of Health of Alabama, 1919-1920* by Samuel W. Welch, M. D. pg 270; *Baldwin Times newspaper, 1896, 1909, 1918; Franklin County Times newspaper, Russellville, Alabama, 1913; The Montgomery Advertiser newspaper, Montgomery, Alabama, 1914; Laura Ellen "Peggy" (King) Dekker* obituary, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Gulf Coast Media.

