

YORE LORE

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

Volume 30 No 2

February 2022



Baldwin County Genealogical Society
Presents Speaker
Mary S. Palmer, author

“Boyington Oak – A Grave Injustice”
February 12, 2022
10 a.m. Foley Public Library, Meeting Room,
319 East Laurel Avenue, Foley AL.



RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for BCGS
Members and Visitors

Email: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com with your name.

RESERVATION DATES: January 12 – February 9, 2022

Mary S. Palmer, teacher, author, will present program on her recent historical book of the legendary true story surrounding the brutal murder of Nathaniel Frost in 1834 near the Church Street Graveyard in Mobile, Alabama, that remains an intriguing Southern mystery nearly 200 years later.

Nineteen-year-old Charles R. S. Boyington, hanged for the crime of killing his friend and room-mate, was buried in the same graveyard where the murder was committed. Based on solely on circumstantial evidence, Charles Boyington's was convicted/.

Two jurors did not qualify to be on the jury, but neither was stricken from the jury. Also, Boyington claimed an oak tree would grow from his gravesite to prove his innocence. Years later, interest in the case was revitalized when information revealed led to speculation that an innocent man may have been hanged.

With her presentation, Mary S. Palmer plans a surprise. Also she will speak about the 2nd Annual “Boyington Oake Festival” scheduled for May, 2022, at the Oakleigh Historic House Museum in Mobile, Ala.

Mary S. Palmer of Mobile, AL, has a BA (Cum Laude) in English from the University of South Alabama. Her Master's Degree is also in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing. She teaches English at Faulkner University and is a member of the adjunct faculty at Huntingdon College. She is an author of fourteen plus books, short stories, poet and play writer.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for each meeting you wish to attend, deadline dates given for each meeting. Email: 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:

Mar 12, 2022: BCGS Board presents – 35th 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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BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, January 8, 2021

Members/Guests 20/23 Total Present: 43

Guest Speaker: Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian Alabama Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library. "Plantations in Baldwin County"

CALL TO ORDER: The general meeting was called to order on January 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM by Pat Brummett, President. Barbara Thompson, V.President/Program Chair introduced Jeanette Bornholt, our guest speaker.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING as published in Yore Lore & by email were approved by membership present.

TREASURERS REPORT: Tina Graham reported the December 1, 2021 beginning Balance of \$1059.66. Deposit. \$0.00. Expenses: \$67.50 Ending Balance of \$992.16

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Membership: January 2022 – 4 new. Sunshine: 1 (Sympathy) for brother of member, Jeri Wilson; 2 GeT Well – May Alanko, Billie Nardell (Dec, 2021) Obituary: up to date.

GENEALOGY MINUTE: was presented by Maureen Lee, "On Tombstones, Cemeteries & GraveYards".

ACQUISITIONS: A memorial book on Pennsylvania German Genealogy donated In memory of BCGS co-founder, Berdine Rittenhouse.

OLD BUSINESS: Award of Lifetime membership was presented to Tina Graham, current Treasurer in recognition of her many contributions at our December Christmas event & a Lifetime Certificate was mailed to member Evan Strohl in recognition of his many early contributions.

NEW BUSINESS: 2022 BCGS MEMBERSHIP DUES (& Renewals) ARE DUE: \$10 Single; \$15/Family. Can be paid @ monthly meeting or by mail.

HOSPITALITY: Thank you to HOSTING VOLUNTEERS Sheri Marshall, Pat Brummett, Tina Graham for the great appetizers & dessert. Month of February: no volunteers.

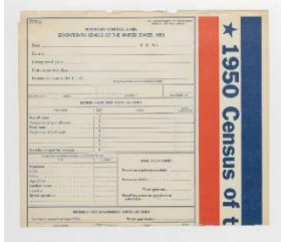
UPCOMING EVENTS: February 12 guest speaker Mary S. Palmer presentation on her book, "Boyington Oak, A Grave Injustice".

March 12 Program celebrating the 35th Anniversary of BCGS

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:35 AM

Respectfully submitted, by Maureen Lee, Acting Sec'y for Billie Nardell

1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity



By Victoria Macchi | National Archives News

WASHINGTON, December 14, 2021 — **With the scheduled April 1, 2022, release of 1950 Census records a little more than three months away, the National Archives is completing efforts to digitize those records and using technology to make them more accessible than ever.**

"Employees from across the agency have worked on digitizing and indexing the records and developing and testing a new, dedicated 1950 Census website," said Project Manager Carol Lagundo, who leads the 1950 Census project at National Archives. "It's taken innovation and creativity to keep this project on track throughout the pandemic and to continue to meet our project milestones. We hope the public will benefit from our hard work."

The new website will include a name search function powered by an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology tool. This is important for genealogists and other researchers who rely on census records for new information about the nation's past.

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"The OCR being used to transcribe the handwritten names from the census rolls is about as good as the human eye," said Project Management Director Rodney Payne. "Some of the pages are legible, and others are difficult to decipher. So, the National Archives developed a transcription tool to enable users to submit name updates. This will allow other users to find specific names more easily, and it provides an opportunity for the public to help the agency share these records with the world."

National Archives officials are encouraging interested members of the public to use the transcription tool and assist the agency to make the records as accurate as possible.

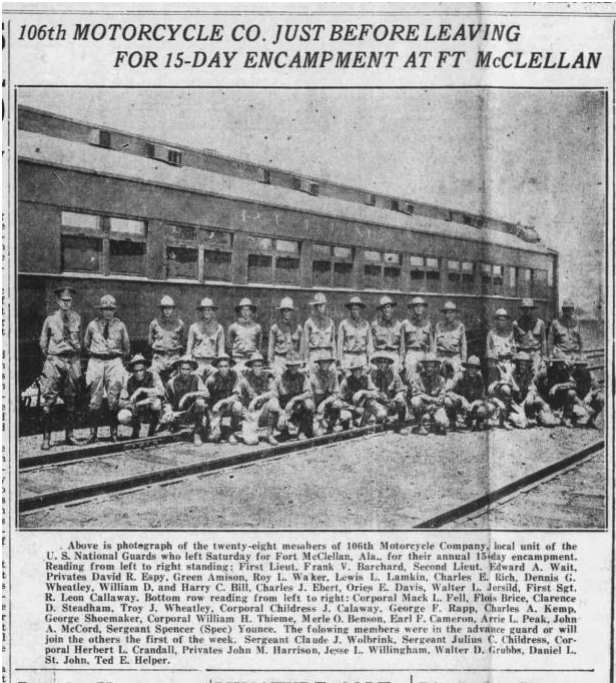
"This is an exciting project for the National Archives, and we know it is important information for so many Americans.

The website is currently in development and will undergo rigorous testing in the coming months to ensure a successful launch.

The National Archives is also working to provide bulk download access of the full 1950 Census dataset on launch day. This will be of interest to digital humanists, web developers, social scientists, and anyone wanting to explore aggregations of the records. Other organizations and companies will be able to use this functionality to provide 1950 Census data on their own websites.

Source: National Archive News: <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/1950-census-access#:~:text=WASHINGTON>

Did You Know This About Baldwin County, Alabama?



Above is photograph of the twenty-eight members of 106th Motorcycle Company, local unit of the U. S. National Guards who left Saturday for Fort McClellan, Ala., for their annual 15day encampment. Reading from left to right standing: First Lieut. Frank V. Barchard, Second Lieut. Edward A. Wait, Privates David E. Bapp, Green Amison, Roy L. Walker, Lewis L. Lankin, Charles E. Rich, Dennis G. Wheatley, William D. and Harry C. Bill, Charles J. Ebert, Ories E. Davis, Walter L. Jessid, First Sgt. R. Leon Callaway. Bottom row reading from left to right: Corporal Mack L. Fell, Flis Brice, Clarence D. Steadham, Troy J. Wheatley, Corporal Childress J. Calaway, George F. Rapp, Charles A. Kemp, George Shoemaker, Corporal William H. Thime, Merle O. Benson, Earl F. Cameron, Arrie L. Peak, John A. McCord, Sergeant Spencer (Spec) Younce. The following members were in the advance guard or will join the others the first of the week. Sergeant Claude J. Walbrink, Sergeant Julius T. Childress, Corporal Herbert L. Crandall, Privates John M. Harrison, Jesse L. Willingham, Walter D. Grubbs, Daniel L. St. John, Ted E. Helper.

During the years of 1942 and early 1943, over 20 German U-boats cruised the **Gulf of Mexico**. The month of May, 1942, was considered 31 days and nights of terror for our **US Merchant Marines** patrolling the Gulf of Mexico to stop the U-boats whose objective was to disrupt the flow of oil and supplies carried by tankers and merchant ships from Gulf ports of such as Mobile. The Gulf represents one of the greatest concentrations of Allied vessels lost to German U-boats anywhere in the world ... **with 56 ships sunk in 1942 and early 1943**. It was kept secret for long time due to director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover's

Only German U-boat sunk in the Gulf of Mexico proclaiming of "Zip Your Lip" to avoid home panic.



Mobile Bay, Baldwin Co. on right Shrimp, eel, crabs, flounders seeking air Mid-1950s, Daphne, Alabama Mobile Bay Jubilee Facebook

JUBILEE! JUBILEE! That was and is the call for all who hear it to grab buckets, washtubs, baskets, rush to the beach to gather the sealife phenomenon that **only occurs in two places in the world** and one is our **Eastern Shore** beaches that stretch from Spanish Fort to Bon Secour. This mass exodus of sealife comes to shore; crabs, flounder, shrimp, mullet, catfish, even eels, not dead sealife, but alive! Most times, jubilees occur in wee hours of the morning, mainly during the summer months, mostly August, involving low oxygen conditions in the water when fresh and/or brackish water of Mobile Bay mixes with saltwater of the Gulf of Mexico *and* a light wind from the east as the tides comes in. The neat thing about our Jubilee, other than **Chesapeake Bay** where they have an event called "Crab Wars," the only other place noted as having jubilees is on the other side of the world ... **Tokoyo, Japan**.



The crew that built the Gulf State park. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jewel Jernigan, who was park of the CCC Crew.



The CCC gave the world this wonderful park



The building of the **Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, AL**, was the project of the Emergency Conservation Work Act, more commonly known as the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of his revitalizing the faith of the nation. With this action, he brought together two wasted resources: young men and land, having 250,000 men in camps by the end of July 1933. It was mobilization of men, material and transportation on a scale never before known in time of peace.

The **Gulf State Park** was a result of that program. In the early 1930s, local landowners and the United States Government donated the land that became the **Gulf State Park**. The young men lived in large tents until more permanent quarters were built and were paid \$1 per day, most of which went home to support their families. Some of the remnants of the old CCC work camp, the remains of the barracks, sawmill and old cabin foundations, are still visible near the Learning Campus. The CCC construction projects also included a casino built on the beach featuring a dance hall and concession stand, a bunkhouse for the lifeguards to live in during the summer, trails, and more. Building the **Gulf State Park** gave these hardworking young men of the **Civilian Conservation Corps** vital training and employment during the Great Depression while giving the world this wonderful park.

The first unit of the **Alabama National Guard** to organize as a company size unit was **106th Motorcycle Company** in the year 1926, commanded by Capt. **Frank V. Barchard** aka **Foley National Guard Unit**. The meeting place was a building the vicinity of

the Gulf Ice Co. in Foley, Baldwin County, Alabama. But in 1934, construction was begun on what is today called the “**Old National Guard Armory**” located 812 N McKenzie St. *aka State Highway 59*, in Foley.

In the **1922 Quadrennial Report for State of Alabama**, the Adjutant General reported “*one of the most interesting cases of acquisition of local publicly owned Armories is in the small town of Foley in Baldwin County. During the last year, through the foresight, energy and enterprise of the present commanding officer of the 106th Motorcycle Company, a suitable and first class Armory, on organization owned grounds, will be practically finished. All material and labor have been procured from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Not a cent of State Military funds have been spent directly on this project. This building should be a subject of special consideration by the State when appropriations are made for Armory building purposes and this project complete in every essential detail. Estimated value of this property is nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00)*” The armory and headquarters military unit in Foley would serve four states, the only one of its kind had the unanimous backing and support from Baldwin County and Foley military area. The age limit for enlistment was 18 to 45. The establishment of **106th Motorcycle Company**, 31st Division, Alabama National Guard and its purpose was being among men and women of Foley military age who, because of age, business, physical or other conditions were not able to render active military service and would provide motorcycle couriers or dispatch riders for the division.

The thirteenth child of **Charles and Susan Swift** was born in the home they built near one of their **Swift lumber Mills** located on banks of Bon Secour River, today known as the **Swift-Cole Historic Home**. The home was first built as four rooms about 1882, with wings and upstairs added to complete the 16 room house as it stands today.

But what is unique about this large home’s architecture style is characteristic of a **tidewater Gulf Coast plantations**, it is surrounded by **traditional drainage ditch** (a “moat,” if I may. This “moat” is generally found around all tidewater plantation homes making the ground where it’s built almost an island in the surrounding low lying land. At one time a picket fence surrounded it to keep free range cattle out; oyster shell walkways were all around the house, under 150-200+ year old oak trees. Members of the Swift family lived in the home until 1976. At that time, **Nik Coles** of **Gulf Shores** purchased and preserved the home he appreciated, opened to the public. **Swift Lumber Company** still exists today under management of **Swift descendants**.



Picture above cypress tree delta sixty feet underwater in the Gulf of Mexico that date more than 60,000 years once the shoreline of Gulf Shores

In 2013, divers discovered an **ancient underwater forest off Alabama's Gulf Coast**. "The forest was apparently buried under a thick layer of sand for eons until it was uncovered by giant waves during Hurricane Katrina... Imagine a forest of giant trees, trees that rival the redwoods in California for size."

Researchers determined the **cypress forest**, which was exceptionally well preserved, was at least 50,000 years old. The depth of the forest proved confusing: "The trees a conundrum. Places that are now 60 feet underwater were typically dry land about 12,000 years ago.... But these trees proved to be too old for radio carbon dating, which means they are *at least* 50,000 years old."

Sources: <https://www.boem.gov/environment/world-war-ii-shipwrecks>; Sunken German U-boats: Hill County, Texas: <https://texashillcountry.com/tour-sunken-german-u-boat/>; *The Jubilee: Mobile Bay's Summer Seafood Phenomenon* by Rick Bragg, Southern Living; Mobile Bay Jubilee, Facebook; *Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy* www.ccclegacy.org; *Protecting Alabama's Forest, the Civilian Conservation Corps Project in State and Private Forest, 1933-1942* by Robert G. Pasquill, Jr., Alabama's TREASURED Forest, Fall 2009, pgs 16-19; *Fort Morgan New June 2019 no 148* newsletter, pg 6; Fort Morgan Civic Organization, www.fortmorgancivic.org; *Foley CCC Camp to be located on Gulf Coast*, *The Onlooker*, May 1934, pg 1; ditto, June 1934 pg 1; ditto, Jan. 1938; *The Onlooker*, Aug 21, 1930 pg 1; *1922 Quadrennial Report of the Adjutant General for State of Alabama*; *Swift Family*, Family History Files, Alabama, Local History, Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library; *Alabama's 60,000-year-old underwater forest spills its secrets in new documentary*, by Ben Raines, May. 18, 2019, pub. Jun. 25, 2017; compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, AL, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library