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

Volume 30 No 5

May 2022

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



“All About the 1950 Census” Podcast by Lisa Louise Cooke

Saturday May 14, 2022

10:00AM FPL Meeting Room

RSVP Dates: April 13 – May 11, 2022

Email: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com

Lisa Louise Cooke is owner, CEO, and host of Genealogy Gems, a multi-media production company. She is author of several books, writes a regular column for Family Tree Magazine and produces the Family Tree Magazine Podcast. She is producer of the free YouTube show “*Elevenses with Lisa*” on the Genealogy Gems YouTube channel.

Speaking at many genealogy conferences and societies, as an international speaker, Lisa’s podcast brings education, news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists. BCGS attendees will be viewing “All About the 1950 Census”, *Elevenses with Lisa* Episode 51.

Group discussion will follow lead by Barbara Thompson, BCGS Program Chair. Copies of the show notes will be available at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the May 14, 2022 meeting and would like a copy of the show notes emailed to you, send your request to BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com.

All meetings are open to all interested public.

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.

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

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Upcoming programs:

- Jun. 11, 2022:** **Monica Tapper**, Public Historian, Educator, Docent & Writer Mobile, AL. Book “A Culinary Tour Through Alabama History” (May 18 – Jun 8)
- Jul. 9, 2022:** **Paula L Webb**, Author and Librarian at USA Mobile, AL. Book “Mobile Under Siege: Surviving the Union Blockade” (Jun 15 – Jul 6)
- Aug. 13, 2022:** **Olivia McCarter**, Majoring in Anthropology at USA Mobile, AL and an Investigative Genetic Genealogist with Redgrave Research Forensic Services. Presentation “Update on Solving Cold Cases Using Investigative Genealogy” (Jul 13 -Aug 10)
- Sept. 10, 2022:** **Mike Bunn**, Author and Historian, Daphne, AL. Book “The Assault on Fort Blakeley: The Thunder and Lightning of Battle” (Aug 17 – Sep 7)
- Oct. 8, 2022:** **Mary S. Palmer & Paula L. Webb**, Co-Authors and Historians, Mobile, AL. Book: “Mississippi Mojo... And Murder” (Tale of the Blues) (Sep 14 – Oct 5)
- Nov. 12, 2022:** **Tracy D. Neely**, President of Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society, Presentation about the MCCHPS Genealogy and Society. (Oct 12 – Nov 9)
- Dec. 10, 2022:** **BCGS Committee** – Members Christmas Social (Nov 16 – Dec 7)
- Jan. 14, 2023:** **Dr Jack Dwyer, LtCol, USAF (Ret)** Fairhope, AL. Sons of the American Revolution, Presentation “Mayflower Pilgrim Genealogy” (Dec 14 2022 – Jan 11, 2023)

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 GENEALOGY SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING April 9, 2022

Members Present 22 Visitors Present 2 Total Present 24

The General Meeting of the BCGS was called to order at 10:00 am on April 9, 2022 by President Pat Brummett.

Barbara Thompson introduced Coletta Bailey whose presentation was on "Advertising Rag Dolls"

After a short break the meeting reconvened at 11:09 with the business portion of the meeting

Corrections/ Revisions: There were no correction or revision of the board minutes, minutes stand as stated.

Treasurer's Report: Tina Graham stated the beginning bank balance as of 01 March 2022 was \$1,148.71; deposits of \$1,070.00. Expenses \$149.40 with an ending balance on 31 March, 2022 of \$2,069.31.

REPORTS: Corresponding Secretary: Maureen Lee stated that she sent 3 pieces of correspondence since the last meeting.

Membership - Maureen Lee stated that there was 2 new members for March – Peter & Diane Cooney.

OLD BUSINESS: The slate of officers for the 2022-2023 year are still pending. We still need a Vice-President. See Pat if you are interested. May Alanko was presented with her Lifetime membership certificate.

NEW BUSINESS:

"Who Do You Think You Are?" is returning to American TV. Auriette Linsey's idea is to promote our Society by doing a feature story or series of stories for WPMITV. Maybe do a family tree on one of their reporters or a local celebrity. The Board decided to have Auriette contact WPMI TV station with the idea.

GENEALOGY MINUTE: Mike Glass reported on the Library of Congress as a great resource tool. You can search by name, date, or subject. Go to www.loc.gov.

UP COMING EVENTS:

May 14 Lisa Louise Cooke-Podcast-All About The 1950 Census

June 11 Monica Tapper "A Culinary Tour Through Alabama History"

HOSTESSES: Pat thanked Maureen Lee and JoAnn McKay as this month's hostesses.

May hostesses are Beth Traylor and Becky Younce.

ADJOURNED: At 11:18 am to meet again on 14 April 2022.

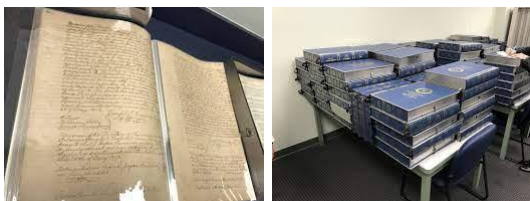
Billie Nardell Recording Secretary

This and that ... from here and there ...

Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to announce the *Baldwin County Training School Historic District*, Bay Minette, Baldwin County, has been listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The AL Register is the state's official listing of historic, architectural, and archaeological landmarks. The Alabama Historical Commission created the Alabama Register to recognize Alabama's historic places and to encourage their continued preservation. Listing in the state register is an honorary designation.

Alabama Historical Commission, 468 South Perry Street, PO Box 300900, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Baldwin County Probate Court preserving, restoring old county records, deeds, other records dating back more than 200 years. (excerpt from feature article)



Documents that date from 1812 predates the state in 1819, listing the location as "Baldwin County, Mississippi Territory." Baldwin County Probate Judge Harry D'Olive, Jr. tells about the very first book, 1809, back before Alabama became a state. The records are among dozens of books of deeds and other documents recently restored and preserved by Kofile, a company in Dallas, Texas. They do it page by page, says D'Olive. the process slow but pages faded and stained are restored." The treated documents are placed between plastic sheets so all them can

be examined without risk of damage, then sheets placed in reinforced patented binders.

D'Olive say the restored pages will be available for public inspection when the process is completed and the company is also providing a digital version of the documents that will be posted on the county website in the near future.

"Preserved records are stored in new binders at the Baldwin County Probate Office by Guy Busby, reporter, Feb. 2, 2022, Gulf Coast Media

Strange companions

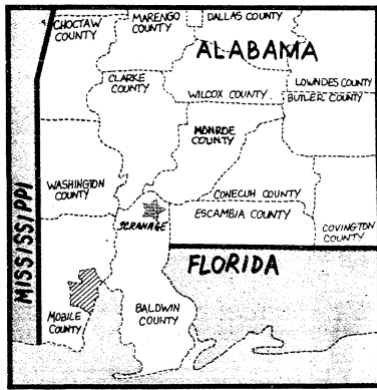
Two or athree years ago a group of fox hunters ran their quarry into a stump hole in north Baldwin near the village of **Scranage**. (*northeast corner of Baldwin County, Alabama*)

They stuffed limbs, leaves and other obstruction in the hole and later returned to get their bottled up fox.

Not only a fox came out, but also a rabbit, a rattlesnake and a gopher emerged. Now, to out-of-staters, this may seem strange, but gopher-chasers of Baldwin have often ran across a gopher and rattlesnake or a rabbit and gopher sharing the same apartment.

The Baldwin Times newspaper, Bay Minette, Alabama, April 13, 1939, pg 4

Scranage, Baldwin County, Alabama ... what's in a name?



Scranage located NE corner



Original Scrabble Post Office



Scranage named after J. Martin Scranage

In July, 1903, an item in Baldwin Times newspaper stated “**Scranage** is the name of a post-office recently established in this county. We would be glad to have some of our correspondents tell us where Scrabble is located, the name of the postmaster and any other news of the place that THE TIMES, as the county paper, may let the outside world know.” In the following week’s paper, **C. T. Phillips** answered with location and names of *postmasters* as the Scrabble Post Office was established in 1899.

As to the name of the postoffice, **George R. Steward** writes “An anecdote demonstrates the rootlessness of such names. (*the naming of post offices*) A clerk who gave many of them was **T. Martin Scranage**. In the course of time another clerk complemented him (*Scranage*) by establishing the post office of **Scranage, Alabama**. The name was rare. Mr. Scranage had a niece interested in genealogy, making a trip to Alabama to find what branch of the family settled there. Naturally she found no answer until she went to **Washington** and consulted her uncle.”

Scranage, an old settlement located in the northeast corner of the county bordered by **Monroe** and **Escambia** counties, is a secluded, quiet, settlement tucked between **Horseneck Creek** and **Smith Creek** accessed by **Earle Road**. The area is rough and hilly, not very good farming land but is great pine tree growing land,” observed **Julius Elvin Howell**, a crop reporter who traveled the county. Timber cutting and logging was big business in **Scranage**. **Joseph Deaux**, a Canadian, is considered the first settler and founder. Other early settlers were **Hall, Reynolds, Fisher, Boone** according to memory of **Howell**.

In November, 1901, Miss **Carrie Sowell**, of **Wallace**, opened school at **Scranage** the 4th inst. After teaching several days, she became sick and was accompanied home by **Joseph Deaux**. In 1905, the citizens were trying to get a mail route from Scrabble to **Little River** on to **Atmore**. It would put them in daily communication with **Montgomery, Mobile** and **Pensacola**.

In March, 1922, the one room school house closed for several weeks for lack of a teacher and with another not available, it would close before the fall term began. At the end of 1927-28 term, the one-room school did close with twenty-five students enrolled. **Nellie Barnett** was the last teacher to serve. May, 1919, **E. B. Lambert** of Scrabble was candidate for sheriff calling upon the voters. It was news the farmers were busy chopping cotton and plowing (*for*) corn, to say nothing about dipping cattle, that “took two years to convince some people in north Baldwin to dip their cattle on regular dip days.” **Henry Cumbie** traveled to Bay Minette on business but Saturday and Sunday, Mr and Mrs **J. R. Phillips** visited with the **Henry Cumbies**.

Pictured at left is **William Ancel Cumbie** 1850-1898, of **Scranage**, married to **Martha (Diamond) Cumbie**, their first child



Michel Palestine Cumbie. This photo was likely taken in Louisiana sometime between Oct 1877 and Feb 1879 (as) Michel was born in Louisiana 4 April, 1877, and **Carl** born in Louisiana in February 1879. (By Jackie Gordon 12 Jan 2014 www.findagrave.com)

Willis R. Whatley was the first postmaster of Scrabble. When he moved, **Ardella Deaux**, daughter of **Joseph**, succeeded Whatley while **J. E. Boone** became mail carrier from Scrabble to **Mineola** in **Monroe County**. Later **Joe Deaux** took over the position. Others who served as postmasters, were **Leila Donnelly, Nola Boone, Rebie Still, Ruby P. House** and **Hattie A Reynolds**.

An event passed down through the years is of a major landslide during the 1930s in southern part of the Scrabble settlement near Baldwin-Escambia county lines where the “earth moved.” It was said to have been caused by underground natural gas explosion. “In 1938, there was about an acre of land, this was high, dry land that just sunk, leaving a large open hole,” wrote **Julius E. Howell**. April, 1938, it was noted in the Lottie community news “quite a number from here visited the landslide near **Scranage** Sunday, People are coming from far and near by the hundreds to view this unusual scene.”

Scranage on March 30, 1938, had residents puzzled by an earth slide 17 miles northwest of **Atmore** on the **Baldwin-Escambia** line. The slide was discovered by picnickers. The land comprising about two and half acres, sank and was moved several yards down a creek which runs through the swampy section. Many large trees were broken or buried in the soft muck. Startle citizen believe the slide was caused by erosion, induce by recent hard rainfalls. Surrounding the section which gave way are banks as high as 15 to 25 feet and in some places almost perpendicular. By mid-April, quite a number of people motored on Sunday afternoons to see the results of the much-talked of land slide near Scrabble



Joseph Deaux is credited as founder of Scranage. Born in **Montreal, Canada**, in 1836, Joseph was married to **Adella Miles** from **Santa Rosa County, Florida**. “Joe” and Adella lived in Monroe County long enough their first child, son **Joseph James Deaux**, was born in 1869 before moving to Scranage. Sons **Charles, Henry, Allen** and daughter, **Leila Ann**, were born in Baldwin County, AL.

Eldest son **Joseph James “Jim” Deaux** married **Corine E. Boone**: their known children being **Clyde Elmore** b1892 Okaloosa Co, Florida, **James Dewit** b 1894 Scranage, **Josie A** b 1896, Scranage, **Walter Douglas** b 1899 Scranage, **Nelson Elijah** b 1903 Scranage, **Floyd Lamont** b 1905 Scranage.



Log home built by Jim Deaux

Scranage School reunions have been held near the site of the old school building, the first in 1975. Another in 1979 was held in home of Mrs. **Tiitha Hill** which at that time the school had been closed 51 years. Hunting and fishing tourneys take advantage of the lush woods and access to rivers and lakes. In 1976, “lot of deer” were reported in **Lottie** and **Scranage** area in northeast Baldwin, later in 1985 the “**Scranage Hunt Club** got 6 pt. and 10 pt. bucks (with) **Dan Williams** getting 6 pt. The Fishing Fair saw **Bryant Hayles** with a “40 lb blue cat Mon. in hoop net.”



Oleo Plantation by Jackie Byrd, Mobile Register, Apr 25, 1988

The ‘**Oleo Plantation**’ in Scranage community bears the name given by **Vernon Hall**’s friends as the owner described his property as “cheap spread.” He leases his land to another farmer for cattle grazing and other proposes leaving Hall raising neither cattle or growing crops.

As to **Scranage settlement’s** namesake, there is no evidence **J (Jaye) Martin Scranage** ever came to northeast Baldwin County, much less Alabama. Born in 1869 in West Virginia, Scranage excelled as law student at **Columbian University** in **Washington, D.C.** He was one of only six law students in 1895 chosen to debate “federal control over elections” before group of distinguished Judges who would render a verdict. Scranage argued ‘for the negative side which verdict was favored in judges’ decision of the ‘case.’

The closest **Scranage** came to **Baldwin** was his marriage to **Marian E. Baldwin** in 1869 in **Washington, DC**. He was listed in *Official Register of the United States* containing a list of the officers and employees in the Civil, Military and Naval Service together with a list of vessels belonging to the United States. He was on the board of directors for the **Washington Symphony Orchestra**, later becoming Manager. He was listed as one of the directors for the **BANK, 1406 New York Avenue**, “The Departmental Bank” under supervision of the United States Treasury.

Scranage was very active in the sport of golf; once headlines boosting of having low qualifying score with card of 58 of golf tournament in 1915 at the prestigious **Bannockburn Club**. He also gain critical acclaim as part of **New Wardman Park Theater** in Washington. By 1935, Scranage was listed Assistant Director of **United States Postal System** where he began giving names to newly formed post offices and where the circle comes around when a fellow employee gives *his* name, **Scranage**, to a settlement in the north east corner of Baldwin County, Alabama. All in all, not a bad sort to be a namesake.



Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

Sources: *The Baldwin Times* newspaper, Bay Minette, 1903 pg 3, 1903 pg 1; *Names on the Land: A historical Account of places-Naming in the United States* by George R. Stewart c1945 pg 325, 327; *Scranage*, Mobile Press Register, 1984 pg16; *The Heritage of Baldwin County, Alabama*, v 1 c2002 pg15; William Accl Cumbie ... Jack Gordon, www.findagrave.com; *Official Congressional Directory for the Use of the United States Congress*, 2nd Ed., 1938, pg 314; *United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1935 U S Government Printing Office, Washington, pg 621, 1113; *Musical Courier*, v LV no 23 1907; *J. Martin Scranage gravesite*, www.findagrave.com; *Baldwin County History Files*, Alabama, Local History, & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian.