

YORE LORE

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

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January 2023



Linda B. Spangrud



Foley, Alabama



Hennef, Germany

BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Linda B Spangrud

“GERMAN HERITAGE – HENNEF, GERMANY, CITY OF FOLEY’S SISTER CITY”

January 14, 2022 ~ 10 a.m Meeting Room ~ Foley Public Library

The cities of **Foley, Alabama, and Hennef, Germany, are working together in a Sister City Partnership**, according to the Foley's Sister Cities Commission. Why Hennef, Germany? Besides many shared characteristics of the cities, BCGS guest speaker **Linda B Spangrud** will share her personal German heritage of family connections in Hennef.

Foley's interest in developing a sister city partnership with Hennef, Germany, is similar characteristic in population, size, educational institutions, economic industries, playing fields and clubs for sports (especially soccer) and their natural environmental settings. Both cities are rural yet with close connections to surrounding communities with diverse shopping facilities.

Linda B Spangrud grew up in Iowa, was in the education profession in Illinois, and as grant writer, is president and owner of Spangrud & Associates. She is a freelance writer, and author of published books and articles in magazines and newspapers. Her recent children's book, "Miss Ella and the Turtle People", is the conservation and care of sea turtles along the Gulf Coast.

All meetings are open to interested public.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL BCGS GENERAL MEETINGS.

(Dec 10, 2022 – closed when seating capacity is met)

PLEASE CANCEL IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE THE MEETING AS THERE IS A WAITING LIST Thank You.

Email: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com with your name or call Barbara Thompson 251-424-4681. Confirmation email will be sent. Website: <http://baldwingenealogy.org> or Baldwin County Genealogical Society – Home/ Facebook

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PLEASE note January 2023 is Dues Due month. Thank you.

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.

Upcoming programs, Reservation required – seating limited to 42 – email your name to BaldwinCounty@gmail.com:

Feb. 11, 2023: “Mayflower Pilgrim Genealogy” – Eligibility & Membership in General Society - **Dr. Jack Dwyer, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)-** Mayflower Descendants. Member SAR, Mayflower Descendant, former Lt. Governor of the Gulf Coast Colony of Mayflower Society in Alabama

(Feb 11, 2023 – closed when seating capacity is met)

Mar 11, 2023: **Susan Stein**, Historian of Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL – “The Secret Training Mission at the Grand Hotel in WWII” – “Operation Ivory Soap.” BC Genealogical Society Member

(Mar 11, 2023 – closed when seating capacity is met)

Baldwin County Genealogical Society General Meeting Minutes December 10, 2022

MEMBERS/GUESTS 28 members

There was no General Meeting for the month of December. Instead, a Christmas Potluck was held. Great food and great company.

On a sad note, it was announced that Corresponding Secretary, Maureen Lee, passed away. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Submitted Sincerely, Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

Baldwin County Genealogical Society General Treasurer Report December 2022

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance November 1, 2022 | \$1,642.04 |
| Deposit | 240.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Check #927 Tracy D Neely, Speaker | 40.00 |
| Ending Balance November 30, 2022 | \$1,842.04 |

Submitted by Treasurer, Tina Graham



Maureen Patricia Lee, age 83, a Foley, Alabama resident, native of Trenton, New Jersey, entered into rest Thursday, December 8th, 2022, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

Maureen loved her family, and regardless of her many activities, she always placed family above all else. Maureen, a Christian of Catholic faith, was active in the Women's Knights of Columbus, Secretary to the Baldwin County Genealogical Society, Foley Public library, and held many leadership roles with the South Baldwin Republican Women. Maureen was a member of the Our Lady of the Gulf's Women's Altar Society holding many leadership positions.

Preceded in death by her husband Milton, Maureen is survived by her daughter Suzanne McDonald Lee of Florida, and sons Robert Lee (Sylvia) of Alabama, and Michael Lee (Tammy) of Georgia. Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren: Maria Quick (Dustin Jr, Memphis), Megan and Brett Fuller (Payton, Kayden), Scott McDonald, Brooke and Wes Ward (Reece), Ethan and Chelsea McDonald (Cash), Lukas Lee and Morgan (Jaxon, Jake), Dane and Payton Messier.

Maureen, an avid reader, an intelligent woman who always kept a positive, witty attitude about life, living life to the fullest. She will be greatly missed by all.

Funeral arrangements were held at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Gulf Shores. Burial at Pine Rest Cemetery in Foley, Alabama.

Bits and Pieces about this and that ...

Scrub Bull Goes to Trail, headlines, Oct, 1931 Fairhope Courier newspaper, pg 2: (*excerpts from news item found by Maureen Lee*) " It has been rumored the fair name of Baldwin County as livestock county is being injured by a scrub bull found within her borders. Charges brought against this bull are as follows, he is one of gang of robbers operating in county; has been ungrateful consumer of valuable provender with no consideration of value; unworthy father of progeny who, like himself, are liabilities to owner. This bull is charged with vagrancy, larceny, highway robber, and disturbance of public peace.

He is to be tried in court of Bovine Justice, jurisdiction of **Judge W. H. Hawkins**, Bay Minette, Oct. 23, 10 o'clock. Vigorously prosecuted by Attorney **C. P. Cobb**, ably defended by Attorney **S. C. Jenkins**. In case verdict of guilt has been reached by Judge, execution by the sheriff and funeral oration given by Rev. **H. T. Crumpton**.

In his "History of Foley", **James T. Dumas** writes: "**Mr Foley (John B Foley, founder of city of Foley)** had built what was known as a Model Farm just across the Yankee Bridge just three miles west of **Foley** towards **Magnolia Springs**. This bridge was just a quarter mile north of the present concrete bridge crossing the upper Magnolia River. This bridge was built of pine logs and saplings and the natives called it a 'quarter row bridge.' It was called the 'Yankee Bridge' because this is where the Yankee army crossed on their way to Fort Morgan. It might be interesting to note that **John Manning**, a pioneer blacksmith was the Yankee army guide during their march through Baldwin County. Mr. Manning opened the first blacksmith shop in Foley just across the street from my drug store and the above information was given me by him."



Yupon, Scenic Hwy 98 west of Foley, AL



Yupon Holly Wikimedia – Luteus



Yupon Plantation aka Yupon Farms, 2008

In April 1924, at the age of 8, **Richard “Dick” Frank** was found dead in the water under the wharf at his home. It was thought while playing on the wharf, he accidentally fell into the river. He was the Frank’s only child.

M. Frank continued to make newspapers with his farm produce. In June, 1920, it was stated he received about \$12,000 for Red Bliss Irish potatoes raised on 21 acres (6 train car loads) He raised 320 bushels of Jersey sweet potatoes on 1 1/8 acre. It was noted “Mr. Frank is some farmer.”

The **Yupon Community** itself was growing around **Yupon Plantation**. It became a destination for visitors as well as the added attractions by **Yupon Amusement Company**. Motoring to Yupon were the **Roy Ellisons, Leon P. Comstock, Mrs. R.R. D’Olive, Misses Saidye D’Olive and Lillie M. Wetzel, Emil Larson**, all of Loxley. **Frank Stuart**, known as the ‘picture man,’ accompanied by his wife, took “numerous pictures of the beautiful trees lining the beach, and the bay, other spots of interest at this point.” Well known musician **Charles Dietz** stayed at **Yupon** with duties connected with his resort.

The Celebration of the 5th of July, had thirty volunteer workers and three teams assembled to prepare the picnic grounds at **Yupon**. A well was put down, with the **Holk Bros.** promising to demonstrate one of the farm pumping engines they were selling. While others cleared brush, no doubt some **Yupon** shrubs, others dug the fire pits, built tables and under supervision of **Dr. Sibley Holmes** made everything ready for three barbecues of three beefs and ten mutton. Still others prepared for the fish fry. **James Dumas** laid out a standard baseball diamond. Equally important, a large space was cleared up in east grove where hundreds of cars could be parked. Lumber provided for bath houses for a hundred at once as well as plenty of toilets and rest rooms. “All together it was a fine example of what a community can do when all put their shoulders to the wheel, with an eye only to the community good, push a good thing along.” A raffle was held for a registered Duroc by **M. Frank**, “the proprietor of the Yupon Plantation.”

Contests were held for such as pie and candy eating, driving contest for ladies, competitive races such as the 50 yd dash won by **Ira Underwood** of **Yupon** community. **W. L. Childress** of **Barnwell** won the hog donated by **Yupon Plantation**. **W. L. Childress** of **Barnwell** won the hog donated by **Yupon Plantation**. Attended by Baldwin and surrounding counties, it was deemed a huge success!

Yupon Community, Baldwin County, Alabama

Yupon, a native evergreen shrub in the Holly family, grows in sand hills, in long leaf pine woodlands and floodplain forest, forming dense thickets, growing up to ten-fifteen feet in height. A drink made from the leaves of the Yupon was consumed by Native Americans; called “black drink” by Europeans. The active ingredient in the drink was caffeine containing 3 to 6 times the amount of caffeine in similar amount of coffee. **Yupon** is native only in few southern states and in Alabama, the southern two thirds which include Baldwin County.

April, 1820, **William T. Moore** received certificate from the **United States of America** for three hundred eighteen acres and eight-eight/hundredths of an acre in Section 30, T7S, R3E, right in the middle of **Yupon** shrubs growing “in sand hills, long leaf pine and floodplain forest.” **William T. Moore** migrated from North Carolina to Perry County, Alabama, married **Amelia Ann Dozier** and began purchasing large amounts of land, with his various occupations, from farmer to cotton trader. There is no evidence that Moore ever was on his Baldwin County property. In 1859, **William T. and Amelia A.** residing in Perry County, sold Section 30 land as well as considerable other acreage to **William L. Kennedy** and **Henry L. Ellison**. From there it passed many hands: **Holder, Keller, Fitzgerald** but it appears **Morris Frank** put the **Yupon Plantation**, later known as Yupon Farms, on the map.

In 1918 it was noted “The **M. Frank** farm known as **Yupon Plantation**, laying just North of Magnolia Springs, is a sight to cure sore eyes, or a grouch, as it is one of the finest kept up farms not only in this county, but throughout the country, all buildings, fence posts, etc., being neatly painted and cared for. He has in 42 acres of Irish potatoes which look fine, 30 acres of corn, 20 acres of early sweets (*sweet potatoes*), is planting 20 acres to cantaloupes and will plant 25 acres to cotton, besides garden stuff, and all the acreage will be followed by late sweets and feed crops. He also has 20 head of thoroughbred Duroc hogs from which he will breed up a fine herd and is preparing to put in some more fine stock. If he can get more help, he will clear more acreage and further increase his crops. A goodly number of such farms would soon cure the food shortage. ---Onlooker.”

Morris Frank, b 1876, Illinois, was fifth child of Germans’ **David and Jeannette (Koshland) Frank**. Morris married **Mary “Mollie” Kelly** born in Ireland. They lived in **Cook County, Illinois** where their son **Richard** was born in 1916. Richard was four years old when the family moved to the property that became known as Yupon Plantation.



Yupon Plantation's reputation as an outstanding, diversified farm became a popular stopping place for dignitaries and large community gatherings. In March 1920, **H. L. Irwin**, Montgomery, **Republican State Committee** man for **2nd Congressional District**, spent time visiting **M. Frank**.

Congressman J. R. Tyson made a visit to South Baldwin County in Feb 1921, entertained by the **Progressive Club of Foley**, was driven to **Yupon Plantation** and **Magnolia Springs** section, taking in a large part of the country famous for its splendid type of successful farms producing

various crops. The Judge was surprised by the solid and well settled condition of this part of Baldwin County stating it as best in Alabama.

Walton County, Florida, sent a committee for a tour of **South Baldwin County** to investigate the marketing conditions; the raising of sweet potatoes, the growing of Satsuma oranges, and cucumbers. They motored to the **Yupon Plantation** and visited other farms and orchards of interest. The **Yupon Plantation** was already the largest grower of state certified Sweet Potato plants shipping at price \$2.50 per thousand, any quality. In 1920, 8 cars of **Satsumas** were shipped by rail; 1922 saw 22 cars sent by **Citrus Association** and **M. Frank** of **Yupon** shipped three car loads. The **Satsumas** were shipped as far as **Oregon, North Dakota** and **Rhode Island**. The first car load of **Kumquats** shipped, of any place in South.

By the end of the year of 1925, **Morris Frank** and **A. W. Keller** headed up a new realty firm, the **Alabama Gulf Coast Realty Company** in nearby Foley. **M. Frank** also became a local produce buyer, shipping produce by car loads northward, making headlines shipping seven rail cars of pears in 1929!

Midyear of 1929, **Morris** and his wife **Mollie** entertained, honoring, **Lucile Stancell**, **Morris' stenographer**, **Clarence Pinson**, telegraph operator, and **Anna Hawkins**, telephone operator and their escorts, in appreciation of their faithful service during the shipping season with a five-course chicken dinner. Cut roses grown on the **Frank's** lawn decorated the house and dining room. **Herbert Crandal, Pauline McCord, Herbert Lawson** attended as escorts.



In 1931, **Yupon Plantation** became known as **Yupon Farms** as **Arthur Holk** completed a contract for new barn: 34 ft wide, 84 ft long, and 35 ft to the ridge, fully equipped and modern in every respect, with hay capacity of about 120 tons. There would be space for machinery, equipment and stock. **B. D. Hendrickson** was manager of the Farm including its 70 acres of pecan trees. The

landmark barn still stands today with the windmill nearby.

Property owned by **Morris Frank**, but in 1932, the property was owned and sold by Baldwin County Bank at auction. Included was **Frank's** warehouse located in **Foley** and 20 acres of land located about three miles west of **Foley**. In June, 1934, **Ernest E. Bannard** took over management of the Farms of **R. Fitzgerald** interests of 320 acres, 80 which were in **Satsumas** and 80 more in **pecans**. In 1952, **Yupon Farm** was on scheduled stop for group of farmers and

agricultural workers from **Washington County, Alabama**.

The 1940 U.S. Federal census has **Morris Frank**, age 67, wife **Molly**, age 52 in **Miami-Dade, Florida**. On March 30, 1943, The **Miami Herald** stated **Morris Frank** died in a hotel where he made his home. A retired produce buyer, it stated he came to **Miami** ten years prior (abt 1933). Surviving was his widow, **Mrs. Mary Kelly Frank**, a brother, **Lee J.** two sisters, Miss **Fanny Frank**, both of **Chicago**, **Mrs. Mannie Childs, Los Angeles, California**. His wife **Mary K. Frank** died in March, 1968 age 79."

Yaupon evergreen shrubs, Yupon Community, Yupon Plantation, Yupon Farms brings to mind "the footprints we leave behind" ... Take a drive on scenic 98 west of **Foley** pass the landmark barn and windmill through the scenic **Yupon** community.

Source: The Directory, <http://www.thedirectory.org/cities/AL/al-yupon.htm>; *Yaupon Plant, Alabama Plant Atlas*, Alabama Herbarium Consortium & the University of West Alabama; *Dig into Plants: Yaupon Holly*, Alabama Wildlife Federation; Baldwin Times newspaper, Dec 1935 pg 1; Family Maps of Baldwin County, Alabama, pg468, 470, 472; *Deeds & Records Link*, Baldwin County Judge of Probate; Land Atlas & Plat Book 1988, Baldwin County Alabama, pg 19; Bureau of Land Management; *Death records*, FamilySearch.org; U.S Federal Censuses; The Onlooker newspaper, 1918-1950. findagrave.com; Alabama Secretary of State; Rev. Dr. Randy Hammer. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library, Foley, Alabama.

