

# YORE LORE

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

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February 2023

Baldwin County Genealogical Society  
Presents

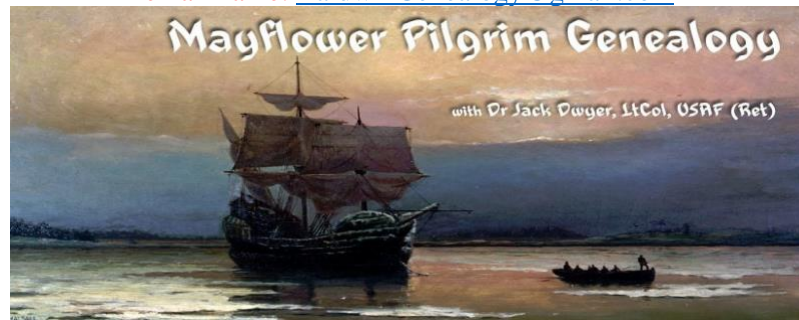
Dr. Jack Dwyer, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)  
“The Voyage that Launched a Nation”

February 11, 2023

10 a.m., Meeting Room ~ Foley Public Library

Reservations: Jan 14 til closed when seating capacity is met

email name: [BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com)



Guest speaker, **Dr. John L. “Jack” Dwyer**, a *Mayflower* descendant, will present his program on the brave group of 102 men, women and children who, in 1620, set sail across the Atlantic on the *Mayflower* in search of a better life. In so doing, the *Mayflower* passengers laid the groundwork for democracy in the New World.

In 1897, the **General Society of Mayflower Descendants** was established to pay homage to these Pilgrims. Dr. Dwyer, having served as former Lt Governor of the **Gulf Coast Colony of the Mayflower Society in Alabama**, will speak of the eligibility and membership in the General Society.

Jack Dwyer, retired Air Force officer with 45 year military and civilian defense career, has traveled extensively, is a historian, author, He is a member and former officer of seven hereditary, genealogical, and patriotic societies including the General Society of the War of 1812, New England Historic Genealogical Society and Sons of the American Revolution..

*(Mayflower Research available, Foley Public Library’s Alabama, Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections.)*

**All meetings are open to interested public.**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL BCGS GENERAL MEETINGS.**

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

Email: [BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

**The Onlooker newspaper, Foley, Alabama, Sept 1910 pg 3:**

Surprised.

“I have succeeded in tracing my ancestry back through ten generations.”

“Without coming to a menagerie?”

*Courtesy collection from Maureen Lee*

# **Baldwin County Genealogical Society General Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2023**

DATE 14 January 2023

MEMBERS/GUEST 35/3 Present 38 total

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Pat Brummett at 10:00 am. After welcoming guests and members, Pat called Vice President Becky Younce to introduce our guest speaker, Linda Spangrud.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Linda Spangrud on German Heritage – Hennef, Germany. Linda also introduced us to Foley’s Sister City Partnership with Hennef, Germany.

After a short intermission, the meeting was reconvened at 11:10 am by President Pat.

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING-** Are published in “Yore Lore” and were approved as written.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Tina Graham started there was no activity for December. Balance beginning Dec 1, 2022 was \$1842.04 and ending balance as of Dec. 31, 2022 was \$1842.04.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Tina stated that we have 50 paid members with 6 Lifetime members.

**Sunshine:** Billie Nardell stated she sent 7 cards and 2 emails

**Obituary:** Tina said obits are up to date.

**GENEALOGY MINUTE:** Billie Nardell presented the Genealogy Minute on “Will Your Genealogy Research End Up In The Trash?” about the importance of having a Genealogy Will. What will you do if your family doesn’t want your research? Try your local library, Genealogy Society, maybe a museum.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Pat informed the general membership that the Board voted to have a memorial brick placed in Heritage Park in honor of Maureen Lee who passed away in December.

Pat asked for a volunteer to take over as the Corresponding Secretary due to the passing of Maureen. There were no volunteers at this time. Billie Nardell will continue with the Corresponding Secretary’s duties until one can be elected.

Pat also brought to everyone’s attention that the tree Jeanette Bornholt painted, for the BCGS exhibit at the Baldwin County Fair, is now on display in the library meeting room.

Susan Stein and Coletta Bailey will give speeches, at different times, at the Gulf Shores/ Orange Beach Winter Showcase Series in the upcoming weeks.

Pat asked the membership, with a show of hands, if they would like to keep the reservations for upcoming meetings. It was unanimous to keep the reservations.

## **UP COMING EVENTS:**

**11 February** Dr. Jack Dwyer, Lt Col. USAF (RET) *Mayflower Pilgrims Genealogy- The Voyage that Launched a Nation*

**11 March** Susan Stein, BCGS member, and Historian of the Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL. *The Secret Training Mission at the Grand Hotel in WWII- Operation Ivory Soap.*

**HOSTESSES:** Pat thanked Tina Graham, Joe Webb, and Bob Bailey for refreshments this month. February hostesses are Bob and Coletta Bailey.

**DOOR PRIZES AWARDED:** There were 5 door prizes awarded.

**ADJOURNED:** The meeting was adjourned to meet again at 10 AM in Meeting Room at the Foley Public Library on 11 March 2023. Respectfully Submitted, Billie Nardell Recording Secretary

## **Bit of this and that ... from here and there .... advertisements**

**Baldwin Times newspaper, Aug 1916** pg 5:

“Womans Civic Association” Meets fourth Monday of “each month at 4 p.m. “Ladies’ Rest Room.” at Court House.  
(editor note: more on this eye catcher in near future)

**The Onlooker newspaper, Aug 1912:** Ad placed:

Undertakers Schindler & Forbes, Foley, Alabama. Caskets of all Kinds ~ Hearse and Rigs Furniture~Livery in Connection.

**Ad in for sale:** “I have a first class Kentucky Jack, weight 1000 lbs. A Guaranteed mule getter which will stand for the season at Foley, Alabama. W. S. Purdy.”

## The SS Chiquimula



SS Chiquimula, part of the US Army lumber fleet

The SS *Chiquimula* was a four-masted Blue Water Schooner, tonnage 700 (gross); 615 (n) with dimensions of 176.3 ft. x 36.1 ft. x 14.2 ft. Built in 1918 in **Portland, Oregon**, her home port was **San Juan, Puerto Rico**. Her final resting place, beached at mouth of **Blakely River**, east end of **Mobile Bay Bridge Causeway, Baldwin County** side. There, a landmark for 13 years until 1953.

Vessels known informally as “blue water” schooners were ocean-going freight carriers, much larger than the coastal schooner-rigged fishing vessels, but still among the smaller sailing freighters of the time. These were much longer, narrower than similarly rigged fishing craft, construction dates ranging from 1838 to 1919. One of the latest of these, the large four-masted *Chiquimula*, was originally motor powered, only later converted to sail.



Three- and four-masted schooners at Mobile, ca. 1900

The Mobile owned schooner *Chiquimula* was one of the lumber fleet which made Miami a port of call during the boom days. In the years leading up to the Civil War, **Mobile** was the South’s busiest port aside from New Orleans. The city was the commercial center of **Alabama** and the state’s only port, prospering because it “lay at the mouths of two rivers.” The trade grew, opening up Mobile and European ports, connecting the Baltic, Caribbean, Mediterranean, as well as eastern seaboard. A majority of lumber from Mobile for export market particularly in Latin America. Southern yellow pine was one of the key species harvested along the Alabama River. The lumber industry was supported by locally owned and operated shipping fleets in the lumber trade with large multi-masted schooners such as the *Chiquimula*.

In 1919-1921 *Panama Canal Record* stated “At the Cristobal shops the following vessels arrived for repairs: ... *Chiquimula*.” At **Cristobal**, a port town of **Panama**, job orders were issued during the month, for work on Navy craft and ships making the town their port or in transit to the Canal.



BUFFETT

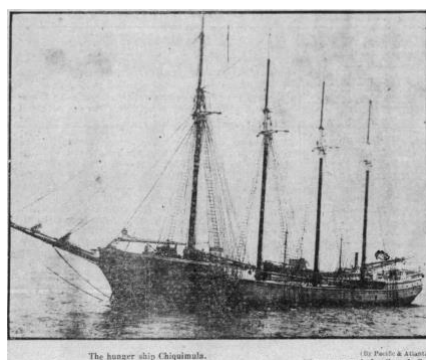
In 1920, **Captain James Buffett** (yes, grandfather of singer-song writer, *Jimmy Buffett* and his sister *Lulu*) was the first captain of the new vessel *Monfalcone* that carried more than million feet of lumber destined for Havana. It was after May, 1923, the *Manfalone*, battling a hurricane, suffered much damage and was sold. **Capt. James Buffett** became master of the *Chiquimula*.

In 1949, **James Delaney Buffett** states on his *Petition for Naturalization* he was born 1893 in **Sydney, Canada**. Family legend says at age of 16, Buffett left his boyhood home on the east coast of **Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia**, shipping out as a cabin boy. Ending up in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Buffett married **Hilda Seymour** in August, 1897. In 1949, their children are named **James D. Buffett**, b 1919; **Patricia Buffett Imppinkin** b 1922; **Catherine Buffett** b 1924 and **William Buffett** b 1927. At the time of his petition, Buffett stated he had not been out of the country for past 6 months (but) under prior trips, he wrote, “numerous voyages to foreign countries and returned to U.S.A. Nothing over three months.”

September, 1925, an eventful trip for the *Chiquimula* loaded with salt with Capt. **Buffett**, master, heading from **British West Indies** for **New York**. Aboard were Buffett’s wife, Hilda, and their children James, Jr, and Patsy (Patricia). The schooner, met first with hard head winds, then dead calm, spent twenty-two days at sea, three with



James and Patsy, skipper's children, trail cook. (By Pacific & Atlantic)



The hunger ship Chiquimula. (By Pacific & Atlantic)

scarcely any food and out of fuel. They were able to signal a **Coast Guard Cutter**, limped to **New York** to met by a tug, taken to dock. Headlines across the United States proclaimed “*Famished Voyagers Land After Ordeal*”; “*Finds Skipper’s Family Starving with Crew*”

The following month, since she cleared New York for Miami, three sails had been replaced on the schooner. In leaving, the *Chiquimula* was caught in storms sweeping the **Atlantic** coast, forcing her to turn back twice for the lee of **Hatteras**, then encountered further difficulties southeast where a storm tore away the mainsail and two headsails.

Another event putting *Chiquimula* in the headlines, again, across country in Jul, 1950, when the **Immigration Service**

James, Patsy Buffett, ship’s cook Dead at sea in calm waters Sept 1925

announced it had closed its files on a **Russian** stowaway **Peter Krayveski** after 25 years. He had boarded the *Chiquimula* in the **Canary Islands** after leaving **Russia**. He was caught entering this country, ordered deported to **Canary Islands**. While in custody, the healthy young man ate little, seldom slept, continually pleading to let his mother - his only relative- come to this country to get away from life “over there.” After a short time, doctors said the man had “driven himself insane, worrying about his mother who he believed was undergoing torture in Russia.” The steamship company operating the *Chiquimula* had dissolved; leaving the immigration service

of no immediate means of sending **Krayveski** back to the **Canary Islands**. He was taken to a mental hospital while his file remained open. **Peter Krayveski** died in the institution on July 27, 1950.

By 1932, Capt. Tibbets was at the helm of the **Chiquimula** schooner.



In 1941, Hobart Key Jr., a naval ensign, was assigned to office of **Supervisor of Shipbuilding**; among his many duties, officer in charge of mine sweep and destroyer construction of waterfront in Mobile. The **Chiquimula** sat beached with “topmasts still shipped on all four masts” says Key. In year of 1942, Hobart wandered aboard ending with an offer to powers that be to buy the remains of the schooner.

With the enlistment of four friends, with capital authorized of \$2000, capital paid in of \$1000, Hobert and his friends formed the **Grand Cayman and West Indies Trading Company**. The nature of their business was ‘Merchandise, Livestock, etc’. Their object was to take their prize across Mobile Bay to the **Baldwin County** side to a permanent dockside possibly become a marine museum or possible a restaurant, tourist attraction.



They managed to bring the schooner, entering **Blakely Slough**, anchored, waiting high tide. Later, the **Chiquimula** was berthed at near foot of causeway, allowing her to sink to light water line. There she remained until end of World War II. Time and weather took over from initial design of the men of **Grand Cayman and West Indies Trading Company**.

During this time, a hurricane took three of her masts overboard and the **Chiquimula** took on a decided tilt, writes Hobert, in feature article in *Mobile Bay Magazine*, 2016. The company was just about ready to move forward again when one night,

*Ghostly bow of the Chiquimula looms over the Causeway from her final resting place*     *Young Albert Key Sr peers into the old ship*

someone went aboard setting the schooner afire. The **Chiquimula** had become a landmark for thirteen years, ravished by man and weather, with stories abound of who, what, when, where, and why. Then, March, 1953, fire burned her to the water line, believed arson.

Just as the ghost of the **Chiquimula** thought to end, in Oct 2007, the schooner made headlines again when a condominium developer was ordered by the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** to halt digging on the sunken remains of the four-masted schooner once captained by the grandfather of singer-songwriter **Jimmy Buffett**. The developer told news press, he was not destroying the vessel but surveying it so builders could avoid damaging it when they later placed pilings of the condo project’s 57 boat slips.

Built in 1918, the **Chiquimula** schooner did indeed “sail the seven seas,” hauling railroad ties, steel to **Central American** banana plantations, salt, lumber; sailing from British West Indies to ports of **Cuba, South America, Miami, New York**, and, of course, her place of origin, **Mobile, Mobile County**, ... to her place of rest, the coastline waters of **Baldwin County, Alabama**.

Source: *Cultural Resources Survey of Mobile Harbor, Alabama*, by Tim S. Mistovich, Vernon James Knight, Jr., contributions by George M. Lamb, Eugene M. Wilson, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, 1983, pg 86-87; *Historic Images, Iry4312*, Official U.S. Army MDATSC photo; *Mobile River Shipwrecks Survey, Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama, May, 2019*, prepared by James P. Delgado, PHD, RPA, Principal Investigator; Contributions by: Alexander J. DeCaro, MA, RPA ; Jeffrey M. Enright, MA, RPA ; Joseph Grinnan, MA, RPA; Kyle Lent MA, RPA ; Nick Linville; Deborah E Marx MA, RPA ; Raymond Tubby, MA, RPA; *Cristobal*, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>; *Sydney, Nova Scotia*, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>; *Alabama Seaport 2016*, v II, 28-31; *Petition for Naturalization, U.S. District, Southern Dist. of Mississippi, Biloxi, no. 692*; *Miami’s Sea Commerce*, Miami Herald newspaper, Miami, FL, Feb8, 1926: *Famished Voyagers Land After Ordeal*, Lima Republican Gazette newspaper, Lima, Ohio, Sept 25, 1925 pg 12; *Landmark Vessel Burns At Mobile* (Bay Bridge), Montgomery Advertiser newspaper, Mar 4, 1953 p 9; Oct 2007, pg9; *The Chiquimula* by Hobart, Jr., *Mobile Bay Magazine*, Dec 2016; *The Grand Cayman & West Indies Trading Co., Inc.*, Business, Alabama Secretary of State. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections, Foley Public Library.



Dues are due in January of the year.  
thank you.

Baldwin County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 108  
Foley, AL 36536

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**Baldwin County Genealogical Society**  
Membership application

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS: \$12.00 person or \$15.00 per Family & Public Institutions per year.  
The annual dues are due and payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> and are delinquent on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Name:

Spouses' name:

Institutions' name:

\*Address: PO Box #

City: State: Zip+4 code:

\*E-mail: Phone #:

Person: \$12.00      no. of yrs      Family/Institutions: \$15.00      no. of yrs:

Renewal:              \*New:              TOTAL:

\*Membership required to receive monthly newsletter (Yore Lore) by postal mail or email.