

YOKE LORE

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

Volume 31 No 3

March 2023

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents **DONNA LEWIS** “USING FAMILY SEARCH”



Saturday April 8, 2023

10:00 AM Foley Public Library Meeting Room

RSVP to BCGS EMAIL ADDRESS: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com
Seating is Limited to 42. Reservations will close when seating capacity is met.

Family Search is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people discover their family story whether online *FamilySearch.org* or exploring the resources of the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Donna Lewis** will do an overview on “**Using Family Search**” with the experience of nearly sixty years in genealogy and having worked with the Birmingham Family History Center for nearly as many years.

A member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Donna was born and raised in Birmingham, AL; lived in Salt Lake City from 1977-1999, moving back to Birmingham, AL in 1999. She worked in the Birmingham Family History Center until she moved to Loxley, AL in 2018. Since moving to Baldwin County, she has been an instructor for ESILL doing genealogy classes. Donna is willing to assist you in your research using Family Search.

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

Confirmation email will be sent. Website: <http://baldwingenealogy.org> or Baldwin County Genealogical Society – Home/ Facebook

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

8 May 2023: Auriette Lindsey Virtual Speaker. : “Time Travel for Genealogists” BCGS member/officers, BCGS webmaster/officers, BCGS, WFGS Speaker’s Committee

10 June 2023: Mike Glass “My family History Book, Publishing Experiences” Author, BCGS member/ officers, SAR, among others.

Obit Committee meets every Wednesday, 1 p.m. Genealogy Collection Room

BCGS Board Meetings will continue to meet at 9 a.m. Board Room of Foley Public Library

CORRECTION to Dues Printed in error last month

Membership Information: Annual Dues due in January: **\$10.00 person or \$15.00 couple**. Pay at a meeting or send your check to: BCGS ; P.O. Box 108 ; Foley, AL 36536

Minutes of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society March 11, 2023

General meeting of the BCGS was called to order at 10:00 am by President Pat Brummett. Vice-President Becky Younce introduced our guest Speaker Susan Stein who spoke on "The Secret Training Mission at the Grand Hotel in WWII – Operation Ivory Soap". Susan stated for those who are interested there are tours at the Grand Hotel.

After the speaker, there was a short intermission.

At 11:00 am the meeting was reconvened by President Pat Brummett who welcomed guest and visitors. She reminded everyone about the signup sheet, on the back table, for next month's meeting.

Corrections/ Revisions- There were no corrections or revisions to February 2023 minutes. Minutes stand as printed in the "Yore Lore".

Treasurer's Report: Pat Read the Treasures report. Beginning balance on 1 February 2023 was \$2,013.04; Deposits 167.00; Expenses 161.73 (with) Ending Balance 28 February 2023 of \$2,018.31

REPORTS:

Sunshine: Billie Nardell she sent 3 welcome emails to new members answered 1 email; sent a Thank You card to Dr Dwyer, last month's speaker.

Membership: Billie Nardell reported there were 3 new members sign up at last month's meeting: Linda & Paul Miller and Mary Jo Stevens.

Obits: The obit committee still needs help with filing.

Genealogy Minute: Billie Nardell spoke on "The 5 Types of Genealogical Information found on a Death Certificate "

NEW BUSINESS: The library will be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day, the Saturday for our meeting. The Board decided to **cancel the November meeting** for the reason.

Pat announced if anyone is interested in being on the nominating committee, please let her know.

There were 6 door prizes awarded. March is our Anniversary month and BCGS furnished the cake. Next month's hostesses are Becky Younce and Beth Traylor.

UP COMING EVENTS:

08 April 2023 Speaker: Donna Lewis "Using Family Search"

08 May 2023 Speaker (Virtual): Auriette Lindsey "Time Travel for Genealogist"

10 June 2023 Speaker: Mike Glass "My Family History Book-Publishing Experience"

ADJOURNED: At 11:15 am, meet again on 11 March 2023 at 10:00 am at the Foley Public Library Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted, Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

News Items in Local News About Folks Not From Baldwin County, Alabama

Fairhope Courier newspaper, Jul. 4, 1913: Notes from **Montrose:**

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Curtis moved backed to **Birmingham** on Monday. Mrs. Curtis has lived for the past seven months in the **Richarbay** cottage.

Fairhope Courier newspaper, Nov. 8, 1918: River Park:

Mr. and Mrs. Smith of near **Birmingham** have been spending their vacation at the **Porter** cottage near **Fish River**.

The Baldwin Times newspaper, Sep 23, 1909: Wedding at Blacksher:

A quiet wedding occurred at **Blacksher** Monday evening when **Mr. D. B. Kearley**, of **Peterman** (*Monroe Co., Ala.*) and Miss **Sadie McCall** were married at the home of the bride's father, **Mr. C. E. McCall**, Rev. **W. E. McConnell** officiating. The happy young couple passed through Bay Minette Tuesday en route to their future home in **Peterman** .. accompanied by Miss **Bessie McCall**, sister of the bride, who will visit her aunt, **Mrs. Tolin**, at **Peterman**.

One of Baldwin old residents has returned to make her home among us. Mrs. **H. T. Bradford** of **Birmingham**.

The Onlooker newspaper, Apr 8, 1910: Died from Lockjaw.

Gustave F. Schroeder, a wealthy **German** resident to **Chicago**, whose address is give as 504 West Adams Street, died in an infirmary in **Mobile** of lockjaw. Schroeder while chopping with a hatchet ten days ago cut his foot. Tetanus developed, death ensuring. Schroeder has a wife in **Philadelphia** and maintains a summer home at **Magnolia Springs**.

The Onlooker Apr 29, 1926: Mrs. Robert Hugger Is Claimed By Death

Mrs. Robert Hugger, 60, wife of Mr. Hugger, prominent **Montgomery** contractor who is a recent visitor to **South Baldwin County** owning property here, died at her home on Clayton Street at 12:25 Friday afternoon after an extended illness. Mrs. Hugger was born in **Tell City, Indiana**, was the daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Winterath**. After her marriage to **Robert Hugger**, well known contractor, she moved to Montgomery, and has been resident of that city for 36 years.

The Onlooker Nov 18, 1926: Med Goodwin Marries Girl At Georgianna:

News has been received here of the marriage of **Mr. Med. S. Goodwin**, of **Montgomery**, and Miss **Evie Mae Brown**, Georgianna, at the home of bride's sister, Mrs. **Herbert Rhodes**. Rev. **D. L Folsom** officiating. Goodwin is remembered by number of friends here.

Baldwin Times newspaper, Jan 14, 1943: Baldwin County Court House News, **Marriages Licenses:**

C. I. Versiga, 36, Mobile to **Mable Await**, 42, **Montgomery**.

William J. Davidson, 22, **Oakman**, to **Phyllis Hope Teske**, 18, **Greensboro**.

W. W. Powell, 29, **Montgomery**, to **Sue Shaffer**, 21, **Montgomery**.

Salt Works, Salt Wells in Baldwin County, Alabama, Part One

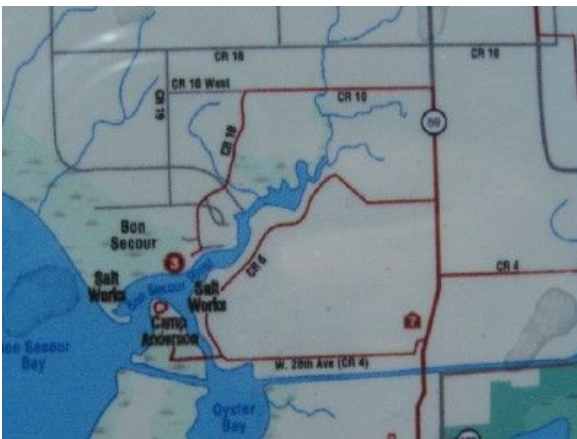


Saline site, Bottle Creek Indian Mounds



County, wrote, “The **Henshaw** place was what is now known as **Camp Cullen**. There Mr. **Henshaw** had **salt works** and at the back, a turpentine still and extensive wood yards from which he shipped wood by boat to New Orleans.”

In 1856, **Edmund Henshaw**, born 1808 in Virginia, now of **Baldwin County**, bought property from **Alexander L and Matilda A Pope** of Mobile County, containing 620 acres more or less in the neighborhood of **Alabama City**, (today’s **Fairhope**), formerly belonging **John D Bibb**, the **Bibbs** distant home. **Henshaw**, son of John and Elizabeth (Walker) Henshaw, built a plantation, was a slave owner, never married. Dying in 1873, buried in Point Clear Cemetery, Henshaw left all his monies, lands, furnishings, to **Catholic Female Charitable Society of Mobile**, part of the property which is **Camp Cullen**. The camp located in **Battles** on Mobile Bay, which during Henshaw’s time, a coastal marsh, thus site of **Henshaw Salt Works**.



Sources: *Pickett’s History of Alabama*, Albert James Pickett, 1810-1858 pg167-8; *Salt in the Bible*, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; *Salt Production in the Southeastern Caddo Homeland* by Paul Norman Eubanks, UA, 2016 , pg 46-47; *Bottle Creek Site*, Encyclopedia of Alabama; *Salt and Salt Works*, Montgomery Daily Mail newspaper, Montgomery, Al, Nov 1862 pg3; Deeds & Records Link, Baldwin County Courthouse, Bay Minette, AL; *Battles, On Mobile Bay, Has Historic and Interesting Past*, Baldwin Times newspaper, Oct, 1939 pg 3; US Federal Census, Alabama, Baldwin County, 1860; *Salt As A Factor in the Confederacy*, Ella Lonn, c1965, pg19, 21-22. Compiled by J Bornholt, Librarian, Foley Public Library

Salt is a necessity of life; a mineral used since ancient time as a seasoning, preservative, disinfectant, unit of exchange for money/goods, part of ceremonial offerings. The **Bible** contains references to salt. The expression “good as salt” signifies permanence, loyalty, durability, usefulness, value, purification ... even fidelity.

Baldwin County could boast to have both **salt works** and **salt wells**, the difference: a **salt well** or **brine well** mined salt from deposits. **Salt works** was processing salt from saline waters and wells, prepared for home use and, on larger scale, for commercial use.

In heart of the **Mobile-Tensaw Delta**, one of the most important prehistoric **Native American** sites in Alabama, **Bottle Creek Mounds** of **Baldwin County** was occupied about **1250**; probably served as principal political and religious center for three centuries prior to European contact.

A main attraction is cluster of salines confined to the lower **Tombigbee River** valley in southwestern corner of **Alabama** which includes a saline site slightly 24 miles upriver from **Bottle Creek Mounds**. The **Tombigbee River** is a tributary of the **Mobile River**; together with the **Alabama River** merges to form the short **Mobile River** before it empties into **Mobile Bay** on the **Gulf of Mexico**.

In his memoir to **Lamothe Cadillac** in 1710, **King Louis** commended Cadillac on the efforts to establish a peace with the Alabamas and “the opportunity to make use of a **salt-mine** ... on the river that leads to the Alabamas.” The King was already allowing one hundred salt-makers to be sent annually to Louisiana, who after laboring three years, would receive land.

In 1862, from **Battle House, Mobile**, a gentleman wrote “*I have visited the Salt Works of Alabama, located on the east bank of the **Tombigbee** river. From the best information I could gather, the total daily production of parties engaged in boiling salt at the works on this river, extending about 25 to 30 miles along it, is about 600 hundred bushels.*” Salt was selling at \$50 per sack, about 150 pounds, called 3 bushels.

Louis Hughes, in his autobiography, *Thirty years a Slave*, writes, “*We all then went aboard a boat and were taken to the salt works, situated on the Tombigbee, ninety miles from Mobile. These salt works belonged to the rebel government, the first part of 1864.*”

Mary Owen Carney in remembering “historic and interesting past” of Baldwin

At the outbreak of the **Civil War**, there were three methods of producing salt: extracting salt from saline artesian wells, boiling down sea water or water from inland salt lakes, and mining deposits of rock salt.

A native of **Baldwin County** from generations settling south Baldwin, **Mrs. Lawrence Callaway** writes the heart of the Lagoon settlement in southern most Baldwin County, is 608 acres, originally a **Spanish** land grant to **Augustin La Coste** in 1820. Ancestors of local natives: Nelsons, Wallaces, Callaways, purchased the 608 acres for \$500 in 1854. The war came. Salt was in great demand. The settlers dug **salt wells** in **Oyster Bay**, said to be saltier than the Gulf of Mexico, according to **J. B. Childress** who claimed Baldwin Countians came as far away as **Stockton** to buy it.

Next issue, Part Two will cover the most southern part of Baldwin County which includes the **Bon Secour Salt Works**.