

YOKE LORE

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

Volume 31 No 5

May 2023

new starting time: Meet and Greet 9:45 AM; General Meeting 10:00 AM.

Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



AURIETTE LINDSEY

May 13, 2023

10 a.m. Meeting Room, Foley Public Library

Reservation Required - Seating is limited to 42

Email your name to: BaldwinGenealogy@gmail.com

April 12, 2023 -- closed when seating capacity is met

Virtual Speaker Auriette Lindsey will present program "Time Travel for Genealogists", a chance for genealogists to travel back in time and interview our ancestors. This program, will help you look the part, find your way; details that will give you a better understanding of your ancestors' lives, even without a time machine.

This will be a hybrid meeting. The speaker will be presenting via Zoom. Not able to attend in person, you may register to attend via Zoom from your location. There are two ways to register: BCGS Website: baldwingenealogy.org – Events- May Meeting or Facebook: Baldwin County Genealogical Society, view post on Time Travel for Genealogists

Click on the information noted below in either the BCGS website or Facebook page to register for the Zoom meeting.,

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86251421257?pwd=QkFqOVhUR3JrWEdzM1ZpK2hUL2I3dz09>.

Due to technical limitations, while the meeting begins at 10 :00 AM, the Zoom portion will begin about 10:15 AM.

Auriette wears many hats including more than 15 years as Broadcast News Producer for WEAR-TV, Pensacola, Florida; a journalist, genealogist, actor, writer, reader, filmmaker, Shakespearean and cat lover. She serves as BCGS webmaster, was former Vice President/Program of BCGS, Speakers' Committee for both BCGS among her many talents.

Seating is Limited to 42. Reservations will close when seating capacity is met.

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:

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

8 July 2023: Joni Euler “Report on Genealogy Trips taken in 2023: *The Deep Roots of a Nation; Salt Lake City Research in Family Research Library*”

12 August 2023: Jeanette Bornholt “*Comedy of Errors aka Errors of the way in genealogy*”

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

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

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

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Minutes of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society April 2, 2023

MEMBERS/GUEST Total of 39 with 36 Members & 3 Visitors

GUEST SPEAKER Donna Lewis “Using Family Search”

CALL TO ORDER: The April meeting of the BCGS was called to order by President Pat Brummet, 10:00 a m, in the Foley Public Library Meeting Room. Pat announced that starting in May we will have the General Meeting first then the Speaker. The refreshments will be drinks only.

SPEAKER: Becky Younce introduced the Guest Speaker Donna Lewis, “Family Search, Why Do We Use It”, who spoke on several ways to use Family Search in your Genealogy research. Pat Brummet called Jeanette Bornholt to the podium and presented her with her Commemorative Brick Certificate and a picture of the brick.

After a short break, the meeting reconvened at 11:03am

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

TREASURER’S REPORT: Tina Graham gave the Treasures report. Beginning balance on 1 March 2023 was \$2,018.31; Deposits 87.00; Expenses 85.00, ending balance 2, 020.31 date of 28 February 2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Tina Graham stated there are 46 paid members at this time. If you are not a paid member of BCGS, you will not be allowed to sign up at the General meeting for reservations. You will need to call or email BCGS to make a reservation.

Sunshine: Billie Nardell stated sending a Thank You card to last month's guest speaker, replying to 3 emails for assistance.

Obituary: The obit committee is still needing help with the filing.

Baldwin County Fair: If you are interested in helping with the BCGS booth at the fair this year please contact Coletta Bailey.

GENEALOGY MINUTE: Billie Nardell gave tips for using Family Search: one, by replacing an asterisk (*) in place of a letter in a name, the results list includes different spellings of that name.

OLD BUSINESS: We are still in need of a Nominating Committee. If you are interested in being on this committee or holding an office, please contact Pat Brummet.

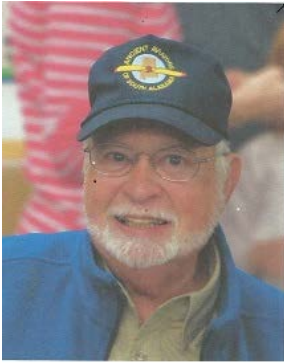
NEW BUSINESS: At the May General meeting, our speaker will be doing our meeting by Zoom. The meeting will still be in the Foley Public Library meeting room. Information will be sent via email on how to join the Speaker from home if unable to attend.

HOSTESSES: Pat thanked the Hostesses for this month, Becky Younce & Beth Traylor. **DOOR PRIZES AWARDED:** There were 5 door prizes awarded.

UP COMING EVENTS: June 10, 2023: Election and Installation of BCGS Officers & Speaker Mike Glass “My Family History Book”

July 8, 2023: Speaker Joni Euler “Reports on Trips to NGS Family Conference in Richmond, VA & The Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, UT.”

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 to meet again on May 8, 2023, at 10 AM in Meeting Room at the Foley Public Library. Respectfully submitted, Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary



BCGS loses longtime member Donald J. Ouellette April 7, 2023

The man would do anything for the Society and did. He was the go-between “email mailman” to pass on the Society’s newsletter for number of years. He took delight in making you laugh with his most sharp wit.

A fighter to the end, Donald J Ouellette passed away 7 of April, 2023 at the Retreat at Saad’s Hospice in Mobile. Don is survived by his loving wife, Pauline (Roy) of 25 wonderful years; his son, Stephen and wife, Jerrienne (Gray) of Mansfield, MA; stepdaughter, Christina (Alley) Giacchetto and husband, Joseph, of Chelmsford, MA; and stepson, Ebon Alley and wife, Kerri (Garvey), currently serving in the U.S. Air Force in England; and his siblings, Adelard "Will" and wife, Carolyn (Habel), Ronald and his late wife, Lil (Lawrence), Nancy and husband, Dale Grant, and Joseph and life partner, Maria (Ruano). He was the

beloved Papere to Alec, Joey and Jack Giacchetto and Madelyn and Eli Alley. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to The Retreat at Saad's Hospice at 1515-B S University Blvd, Mobile, AL 36609.

.... *ohmygosh, we will dearly miss himjb*

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This and that from here and there.... from the past

New Orleans newspaper, La., October 1888 (note at items' end, newspapers to copy):

DIED.

Miller – At 7 o’clock a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 16, 1888, **Thomas D. Miller**, aged sixty-three years. The funeral will take place on Wednesday Evening, Oct 17, 1888, at 3:30 o’clock, from his late residence, corner **Jackson** and **Colliseum** streets. Friends of the family are respectfully attend to attend.

Weber – Tuesday morning, Oct. 16, 1888 at 3:20 o’clock, our beloved son, **John G Weber**, aged twenty-two years, two months and twenty-three days, born in **Straussburg, Alsace**, and a resident of this city for the past twenty years.

The funeral will place This (Wednesday) Afternoon, at 3 o’clock, from his late residence corner **South Rampart** and **Perdido** streets to which friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited. The bereaved parents, **JOHN P WEBER, BARBARA WEBER** (need **Fraas**.)

Barry – On Tuesday, Oct 18, 1888, at 5 o’clock, at **Diamond**, parish of **Pisquemes, La.**, **George Paul Barry**, son of **P. E. Barry** and **Aline More**, aged nine years. Funeral will take place on arrival of **New Orleans and Gulf Railroad** train Wednesday, Oct 17, 1888 at 9 o’clock a.m.

Musgrove – On Tuesday, Oct 16, 1888, at 5 o’clock p.m., **Elma Blanc**, widow of the late **R. G. Musgrove** (of Liverpool, England), aged seventy-two years. The friends of the family, as well as those of the **Blanc, Denegre, Piderit** and **Labatut** families, are requested to attend the funeral which will take place at 4 o’clock This Evening from her late residence, corner of **Grand Route St. John** and **Esplanade** street.

Liverpool papers please copy

De Gruy. – In **Jefferson parish**, Tuesday, Oct 16, 1888, at 10 o’clock p.m. **A. Onesime De Gruy**, at the age of seventy-eight and five months. The friend and acquaintances of the family and those of his sons-in-law, **F. Nicaud, H. A. Harvey** and **C Cherbonnier**, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, which will take place This (Thursday) Evening at 4:30 o’clock, from the residence of **Mrs. F. Nicaud**, corner of **Bayou Road** and **Rampart** streets.

Mobile (Ala.) and Pensacola (Fla) papers please copy

Baldwin Times newspaper, Bay Minette, Ala., Sep 10, 1903:

HYMENEAL. – **FARRAR-STANMYRES.** Mr. **James H. Farrar** and Mrs. **Isabella M. Stanmyres** were quietly married at the **Bay Hotel** last Thursday at noon, Rev. **G. W. McRae** Officiating. Only a few relatives and friends of the couple were present. Mr. **Farrar** is a lineman in the employ of the **Western Union Telegraph** company. **Mrs. Stanmyres** is the relict of Mr. **S. B. Stanmyres**, deceased. They will make their future home in **Mobile**.

Baldwin Times newspaper, Bay Minette, Ala., Sep 23, 1909:

Wedding at Blacksher. A quiet wedding occurred at **Blacksher** Monday evening, when Mr. **D. B. Kerley** of **Peterman**, 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 at **Peterman**. They were accompanied by Miss **Bessie McCall**, sister of the bride who will visit her aunt, **Mrs. Tolin**, at **Peterman**. The Times wafts congratulations.

The Onlooker newspaper, Foley, Ala., 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, **Montgomery**, 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 Winterrath**. After her marriage to **Robert Hugger**, well known contractor, she moved to **Montgomery**, has been a resident to that city for 36 years. The many friends of the **Huggers** in **Baldwin County** join in the bereavement of this loveable wife and mother.

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

In 1795, **William King** established **King's Salt Works** in Virginia which would later reach into Alabama. In **Abingdon, Virginia**, **James White**, a native of **Carlisle, Pennsylvania**, had established a mercantile business supplying the pioneers heading west into the **Tennessee Valley and Kentucky**. By 1802, **White** was selling salt from **King's works** and had established a trading network that stretched to **Alabama** and included 55 stores mostly located in river towns. Using salt as a trade for land, he owned large plantations with numbers of enslaved workers.

May, 1863: "It will no doubt be of interest to our readers to know that considerable preparations are being made by the salt makers along our coast to make an early commencement this season in the boiling of salt. Already do we hear of several camps being erected and the kettles in active operation. The water is as yet hardly salt enough to do much, but will be sufficiently so by the first to the middle of next month, when we expect the coast being lined with boilers. We were yesterday presented with a specimen made by **Messrs. Walker & Simpson**, at **Bon Secour**, who, we learn, with 10 kettles holding about 1000 gallons in all, made 54 four bushel sacks of good salt in one week. That's the way to coin money. – {*Mobile Tribune.*"

Office of Supervisor and Commissioner
Of the Salt Works of Alabama,
July 4, 1862.
HANDS ARE WANTED BY THE STATE
TO MAKE SALT.—Fifteen dollars per
month for No. 1 fellows will be paid in money,
or, if preferred by the owner, half a bushel of Salt
for each head in the family will be sold at the
price adopted by the State for the sale of salt, in
part payment of the hire. Subsistence and necessary
medical attention will be furnished by the
State; but owners must pay Taxes, and furnish
necessary clothing and submit to a pro rata de-
duction for all lost time from sickness, or by hands
running away.
Eggs Hands wanted immediately.
To an experienced salt maker who understands
constructing the furnaces, liberal wages will be
given.
A. G. McGRIBBE, Commissioner,
Office on Ferry Street.
July 24 - n20 - 5t.

Autauga newspaper, 1862



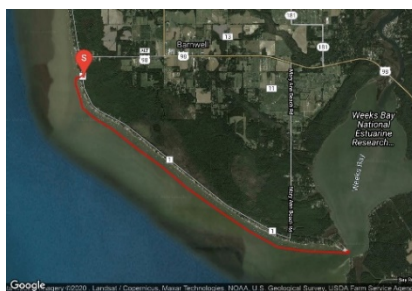
Bon Secour coastal marsh

About that time, he wrote, "some men at or near **Mullet Point** boiled the water in syrup kettles. It was called '**The Salt Works**'. The product was a little better than ours, but not much better than ours."

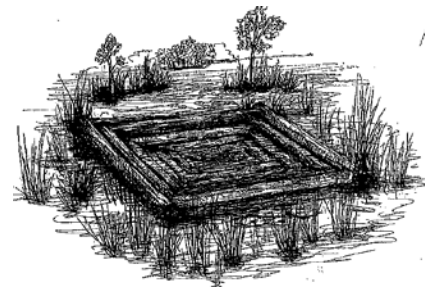
Two of the most sought after foodstuffs within the **Confederacy** during the **Civil War** were coffee and salt. While lack of coffee in Southern diet posed no real threat, the shortage of salt was a handicap of major significance. **Alabama Salt Commission** created in **1862** in charge of purchase, manufacture and transport of salt; equal amount not to exceed 25 pounds be sold to each household with responsibility of each county to do so within its county. The largest of the salt production in south **Baldwin County** came from **Bon Secour Community**.



Survey of Mullet Point to Weeks Bay



Mullet Point to Weeks Bay (NWR credit iStock)



Artist depiction: inverted wood pyramid salt well

On the **Bon Secour River**, brine wells were dug above the reach of the high tide. These 12 foot by 12 foot pits were about 10 feet deep and were built like inverted pyramids with the sides made of squared logs narrowing down to the bottom which prevented the pit from filling in with sand. The brine seeped in through the loosely placed timbers and, brine being heavier than the fresh water, it sank to the bottom of the pit.

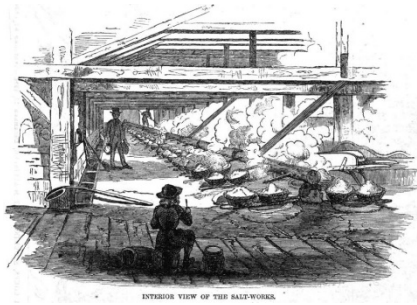


Brine would be bucketed in barrels, transported to boiling furnaces by wagon. A corduroy road through the swamps was still evident into the 20th Century. The salt works were so large, production so lucrative, it is likely furnaces and buildings for the works were on both side to the **Bon Secour River** as well as north east edge of **Oyster Bay**. Land owners in the area included **George Brown, Joseph and Elisha Nelson, Alexander and Jerome Cook, Jacob Shultz, John Yrend, G. Eslava, W. Frost, W. H. Wallace, George Braid, Frances Coste**, among the many.

Photo to left: A home salt works furnace with small kettle very similar to one found recently in Bon Secour on property adjacent to the Swift Cole Historic Home. Property Owners building a new restaurant on the property have plans to preserving the furnace



Wm Stelzenmuller



Above: Salt works in Saltville, Virginia, very similar to Bon Secour Salt Works, source: *Alabama Mining Tours*, 2022 Mining History Assoc.

Probably the most accurate description of the **Salt Works** in Bon Secour and its destruction is from the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* “report of **Rear-Admiral Farragut, U.S. Navy**, transmitting the “report of destruction of salt works in Bon Secours River” from the combined expeditions to Bon Secours and Fish river, Mobile Bay, September 8-11, 1864.

Farragut forward the descriptive report from Acting Volunteer Lieutenant **George Wiggin** who “carried out my orders thoroughly. ”September 8, 7 a.m., accompanied by U.S. steamers **Rodolph** and **Stockdale**, also an army transport, anchored off **Salt House Point** in 12 feet of water, one mile above the bar. Armed boat’s crew found 55 furnaces, averaging 18 pans or pots each, making a total of near 1,000, capable of making 2 bushels of salt to a pan a day. They commenced the destruction of them by breaking the pans, furnaces, cutting the pumps, tearing the brickwork, etc. They did not finish breaking them until near 5 p.m. when they set all the sheds covering the works, also the quarters attached on faire, some 200 buildings altogether. “The destruction was complete.” the whole works covered an area of a square mile. Inhabitants told of averaging some 2,000 bushels of salt per day. Wiggin reported about ten families living on the bay and rivers. The entrance was shallow; about 4 feet of water can be carried in at low water. They saw no troops nearer than 20 miles. He learned everything had been destroyed in the vicinity of **Fish River**. He regretted to “report **Mr. Trundy** accidentally shot himself in his right hand by his own revolver going off in his belt; he will lose a finger.”

Wiggin reported going up **Fish River** of “getting possession of an engine used in a saw mill on this stream; assist the army in procuring lumber at this place.” On Sept 11, 1864, **C.W. Stone, Captain, Sixth Michigan Vol. Arty**, Actg., Asst. Quartermaster reported, “as soon as troops landed, a strong picket guard was posted on the road leading into **Bon Secours** being only one road, both sides an impassable swamp.” The remaining force took down buildings loading about 30,000 feet of lumber, all available lumber in the salt works. The naval force engaged in breaking kettles, “the tools which I had being too light for this purpose, many of these kettles being fully two inches in thickness while others were made of a heavy quality of boiler iron.”

In addition to lumber Stone reported loading onto the barges nine head of beef cattle, belong to a citizen inside of our lines in the employment of **Captain Perkins. Stone** left **Bon Secour** by 8 p.m. having previously fired all buildings used as salt works, as he found the owners were in Mobile and that these works had been manufacturing salt for the Confederate Army, also a number of buildings about mile and a quarter from Bon Secours, these building having been constructed by the **Confederate** forces as quarters for soldiers, this being known as **Camp Anderson**. Stone also remarks, “I also brought in 2 prisoners, **George Brown** and **J. F. Yeanel**, (*sic Yrend*) they both being reported as being engaged in conveying information to Mobile.

From headquarters district of Pensacola, Barrancas, June 14, 1864, in report to Major John Levering, Brigadier-General Asboth writes, “There are two companies of cavalry at **Camp Withers**, two companies at **Camp Andover**, guarding the salt-works, and one company at **Camp Powell**, near the **Perdido**.” An interesting note. The camps of salt workers appealed to deserters from military service as a haven of refuge to escape detection as in places such as swamps of southern Alabama ... (Baldwin County). It happened frequently enough, each wagon on way to the works were searched by officers, resulting in “a goodly number of deserters being detected and seized.”

William Stelzenmuller, born 1858 in Baldwin County, at 102 years old, still remembered the Civil War hearing shots fired during the battle of Mobile Bay. He remembers “after the surrender, a coarse salt was shipped in from Louisiana and was in general use until 1880-85.”



A descendant of the old **Nelson Family**, also one descendant of **George Brown**, of **Bon Secour**, remembers vague areas as to locations; today, locations of brine wells of the **Bon Secour Salt Works**, have been nearly obliterated by modern development.

photos left: *Bon Secour National Wildlife Reserve*

Source: Ad from Autauga County, AL newspaper 1862; *Eldest Member of Church to Break Ground*, Fairhope Courier newspaper, 1960, pg 1; The Salt Works at Bon Secour, John Jackson, Gulf Coast Newspapers, 2010; *Salt as a Factor in the Confederacy* Ella Lonn, c1965 pg 136: *Mullet Point to Weeks Bay*, <https://www.bivy.com/adventures/us/alabama/mullet-point-to-weeks-bay>; *The Civil War Salt Makers of St. Andrews Bay: The Salt of the Earth* posted by PCL editor, Jan. 2014, <https://panamacityliving.com/civil-war-salt-makers-st-andrews-bay-salt-earth/>; *Bon Secour Salt Works. Salt as a Preservative*, The Quarterly, Baldwin County Historical Society, v. x, no 1, 2013; *Industrial Progress in Alabama During the War Between the States, III Salt Making*, D. Huger Bacot, Birmingham News. Birmingham, AL Mar 1, 1925 pg 30; Bureau of Land Management; *West Gulf Blockading Squadron*, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, 1906, Series I, v 21, pgs 629-639; *Saltville, VA*, Alabama Mining Tour; The Onlooker newspaper, Nov 1962 pg 5; Tripadvisor [updates@mp1.tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com). Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library.

