

YOKE LORE

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

Volume 31 No 6

June 2023

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

Baldwin County Genealogical Society

Presents

Michael "Mike" Glass

"My Family History Book-Publishing Experiences"

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 March 11, 2023 -- closed when seating capacity is met. Seating is Limited to 42. Reservations will close when met.



Mike Glass will share his experience on publishing book which will also include online publishing of both a hardback and DVD. In 1999, Mike published his family history in *Trails, Trials, and Tales*, a Glass Family History 1750-1999, a 120-page spiral bound volume. His latest book, "Trails, Trials, and Tales III, Glass Family History 1653-2018", expands and updates the original with a map-covered hardbound book of 637 pages with a 66-page Index.

Mike, a long-time member of Baldwin County Genealogical Society, is a southern Alabama native, born in Mobile County, growing up in Baldwin County. After his military career serving in the U. S. Air Force after his high school graduation, Mike began a career as laboratory and computer technician. Having retired at 55, he and his wife traveled extensively throughout the southeast doing genealogy, history, and site-seeing for 14 years. In his spare time, he wrote and published three Glass Family history books and still serves as the Glass DNA moderator worldwide

Mike was founder of the first computer club in Baldwin County, also joining BCGS at the 4th meeting of his organization. He also reactivated the General Galvez Chapter, ALSSAR in Baldwin County of which he currently serves as the SAR Chapter Genealogist after serving various offices of these clubs including President.

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

~ ~

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

~ ~ ~

Minutes of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society May 13, 2023

GENERAL MEETING

MEMBERS/GUEST 25 members, 2 visitors

CALL TO ORDER: The May meeting of the BCGS was called to order by President Pat Brummet, at 10:00 am in the Foley Public Library Meeting Room. Pat welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING- The minutes of the preceding meeting are published in "Yore Lore" and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Tina Graham gave the Treasure's report. Beginning balance on 1 April 2023 was \$2,020.31; Deposits 52.00; Expenses 171.70; Ending Balance 30 April, 2023, \$1900.61.

REPORTS:

Corresponding Secretary- Billie Nardell stated she sent a Thank You email to last month's guest speaker. Donna Lewis, replied to 1 email for assistance & 1 wishing to donate old letters & records about Baldwin County. She sent a sympathy card to Pauline Ouellette, a get-well card & Thinking of You card to Joe Webb.

GENEALOGY MINUTE: Janice Hudson did the Genealogy Minute on "Cemetery Signs and Symbolism". What do the different shapes mean, money on the headstone, the different symbols. What do they all mean?

OLD BUSINESS: We are still in need of a President and Vice President. Anyone interested, or know of someone interested, please contact a board member.

SPEAKER: Auriette Lindsey did the first BCGS Zoom meeting from the Foley Library. She spoke on "Time Travel for GENEALOGIST."

DOOR PRIZES AWARDED: There were 5 door prizes awarded.

UP COMING EVENTS:

23 May 2023: Paul Leonard, local historian & Librarian, will present program on "The History Foley Public Library" at the library. RSVP 251-943-1031

10 June 2023: Mike Glass "My Family History Book & Publishing Experience" Also Election and Installation of BCGS Officers

8 July 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 10:47 to meet again on 10 June 2023, at 10 AM in Meeting Room at the Foley Public Library. Respectfully submitted, Billie Nardell, Recording Secretary

~ ~



Joe Webb, a BCGS member since 2018 and a current board member, recently suffered a stroke. He is now residing at Brookdale
8700 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514.

Even though he is visually impaired as result of the stroke, I think he would appreciate a card or a note his caregivers can read to him.

Tina Graham

Joe Webb, left, presenting to Chief Wilson, Foley Police Dept. a certificate of appreciation to law-enforcement. Joe represented the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Ft Blakely Camp 1664. (August 15, 2019)

Things to know that you may not know..... just saying

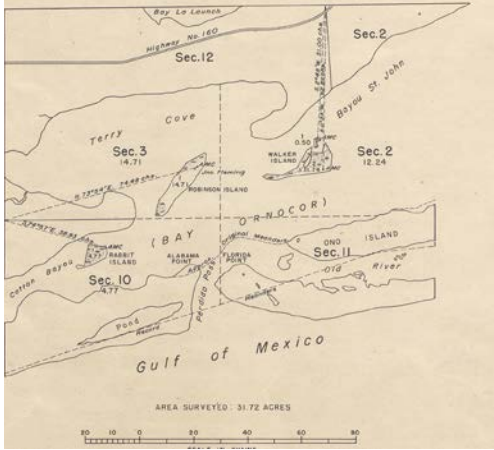
How to cite References –

This is copyrighted materials. Therefore, if you include any portions of the information from this site in your own compiled genealogy or history sketches, cite the reference:

Early American Roads and Trails. Beverly Whitaker, Kansas City Missouri, Copyright 2002.

online <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/gentutor/trails.html>

ONO ISLAND aka Goat Island & Rabbit Island, Baldwin County, Alabama.



1920 Survey of lower portion of William Kee's land claim no 42 of 567 acres

The eastern boundary of the **Louisiana Purchase** was the **Mississippi River**, to the 31st parallel, though the source of the Mississippi was, at the time, unknown. The U.S. claimed the land as far as the **Perdido River**, and **Spain** claimed that the border of its **Florida Colony** remained the **Mississippi River**. The **Adams-Onís Treaty** with **Spain** resolved the issue upon ratification in **1821**.

Today, the 31st parallel is the northern boundary of the western half of the **Florida Panhandle**, and the **Perdido Bay** is the western boundary of **Florida**. East of Perdido Bay is **Ono Island**, a five and half mile long barrier island in southern **Baldwin County** at the mouth of **Perdido Bay**, to the north Terry Cove feeds into the island's border of **Bay Ornocor** and **Bayou St. John** with **Old River** to its south. Its western tip no more than 500 yards from the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico.

Already, **William Kee**, one of the earliest settlers, had Spanish land claims to **Ono Island**. Private land claims filed by "**William Kee, Claim No. 42 in a list dated July 11, 1820, regularly surveyed and designate as Section 12, Township 9 south, Section 36, Township 8 south containing five hundred sixty-seven acres and seventeen hundredths of an acre**" including **Ono Island, Rabbit Island, Walker Island** and today's **Orange Beach**.



William Thomas Kee, born 1780, possibly in Spain, married **Condalaura Carmelita Suarez** spending time living in both Pensacola, Florida, and Lillian, Alabama. They had six children, one who was **William Thomas Kee II** who married **Elizabeth Isabell Resmondo**. William II and Elizabeth's son, **George Randolph Kee**, after a dispute with his cousin **Fred Suarez**, built the only house on **Ono island** at the southeastern end near **Rabbit Island**. Using a small sailboat, George hauled his materials, also bringing goats and pigs allowing them to roam free. At one time it was estimated 2,000 goats had gone wild on the island plus wild hogs that Kee allowed anyone to shoot for food. Thus it became known as **George Kee's Island** and "**Goat Island.**"

Left: George R. Kee 1874-1842



Aerial circa 2004, Ono Island on left.



Off southeastern end of Ono Island is Rabbit Island, today a Nature Conservatory



Migratory shorebirds habitat to bird watch

Rabbit Island is a 26-acre island lying alongside the **Alabama/Florida** border southeastern just off **Ono Island**. The small island is known for its saltwater snake and diamondback terrapin population and a variety of migrating shorebirds who nest there. The coastal marshland is important ecosystem. **Indian** artifacts have been found, recovered on **Ono Island** and surrounding islands as well as nearby Innerarity Point, which suggests Indian civilizations thrived with all the natural resources of fish and wildlife.

In 1913, **Capt. J. C. Callaway** and son rounded up and branded their cattle on "the **Ono Island** range". It was stated in 1927, while enjoying the hospitality of **Col. E. L. Higdon** whose habitat "**Memento Villa.**" built on **Perdido Bay** at **Bear Point**, it afforded a view of **Ono Island, Florida Point** and **Old River** where are the oyster beds."

Headlines, page one on July, 17, 1925, *Pensacola News-Journal* newspaper stated: "**Ono Island** Property Bought by Syndicate." "Three hundred and two acres had been purchased by a syndicate of local and out of town men from **A. B. McFall**.* The acreage had more than two miles water frontage, bounded on the east by government owned land, on the north by **Perdido Bay**, on the west side by **Old River**. It was announced the purchasers would not offer the land for resale at this time at any price. The syndicate was formed to take over the property for the purpose of certain development details of which were not announced. It had been originally purchased by **M. A. Touart, Jr.**** acting with out-of-town interests, which had since been secured by **Mr. Touart** and the entire project re-syndicated by **Pensacola** and foreign investors. (***A. B. McFall**, "retired insurance tycoon," was, among other titles, a representative of Baldwin County. His home was located along the shores of the **Perdido River** in **Seminole**, was built a porch out over the water 85 foot long. He boasted he could fish in the river from his back porch, feed the fish from his kitchen window.)

(****M. A. Touart, Jr.**, of **Pensacola, Florida**, involved in land development, was a CEO of exporting Company organized in **Pensacola** In 1914, was indicted, alleged of defrauding the government in sale of surplus cantonement lumber after the War, apparently acquitted. In 1926, he "represented folks from New York" in development of **Santa Rosa Peninsula**.)

By September 1927, **H. C. Bartling**, of **Chicago**, was the highest bidder for the east end of **Ono Island**, containing about 300 acres, sold at auction by the **War Department**. In June, 1929, **Mrs. Jas. Kee**, daughters Misses **Isabelle and Maggie**, **Mrs. Jennie Mitchell** and **Mr. L. J. Resmondo** returned home from spending a very pleasant week at **Ono Island**.



Modern day view of Ono Island

An example of the interaction of these islands in July of 1930: "**Douglas Walker** of **Pensacola** en route to **Caswell** (on *Fort Morgan road*) in his motor launch was just one and half miles east of mouth of **Perdido Bay** when the engine crankshaft broke. Walker donned bathing suit, anchored his boat in the **Gulf**, went overboard in the breakers, swam to **Florida Point** (see *land grant map at top*), walked across, swam **Old River** to **Ono Island**, walked across, swam to **Walker's Island**, walked across that and swam to **Bear Point**, went to his uncle **Lee Walker's** and got **Leonard Mann** and the "*Cruzat*" to tow him in **Perdido Bay** and up to **Innerarity Point**."

Walker Island has seen many spend the night on its marshy banks. March, 1950, "**Mr. Bill** of **Orange Beach** with **Claude Peteet** and another gentleman was off to **Walker's Inn** to spend the night. They had trouble with the engine, went adrift, the three men spending the night on the little island which is not more than two hundred yards from mainland ... if they had only known where they were."

In 1951 in Beat Thirteen, **Mary Belle Gray** and **D. R. Peteet** was listed in for tax fees and cost of \$12. 31 for Three small Islands in **Perdido Bay** known as **Walker Island**, **Goat Island** (aka **Ono Island**) **Rabbit Island**.

According to **Baldwin County** Courthouse Records, in 1954, **S.W. Smyer** and his wife sold to **L.V. Crook**, **Rabbit Island**, lying on the southeasterly side of **Ono Island** in **Perdido Bay**.

In 1967, **Ono Island** sold for more than \$1 million to **Frank J Caron**, insurance and real estate agent from Mobile on the east Side of **Perdido Pass** and approximately 1, 000 acres on the **Alabama** "mainland" at **Terry Cove**. Caron applied for the construction of a bridge across navigable waterway of **Old River** on the south side of the island.

Today, **Ono Island** is the most exclusive island in the **Gulf Coast** situated between **Old River** and the **Intracoastal Waterway**. Development, commencing in the 1970s, has been constant on **Ono Island**, with over 700 homes built representing approximately ½ of the total number of lots with over 300 of these residences being built in the last 10 years. Access to the island is limited to a single bridge with 24 hour security. By deed, there is no commercial activity on the island, no shops, stores, or eateries.



Ono Island is widely regarded as the most valuable and exclusive property along the **Gulf Coast**; waterfront lots with deep water valued in \$2 million range while luxury homes valued at \$6 million and more. The private, gated island is second home to people of "importance" in industry, celebrities, musicians and retired professional athletes.

There is an unspoken rule of **Ono Island** residents: they don't drop names or discuss the locals. As a majority we daresay, residents and natives of Baldwin County respect their privacy owing to fact, County residents themselves appreciate their own. We deem it a compliment when others appreciate, choose this area to live the good life also. One of the big reasons **Ono Island** is so prized. It's private ... very private.

Sources: *William Kee*, Bureau of Land Management, US Dept of Interior; 1: *The Annotated Pickett's History of Alabama and Incidentally Georgia and Mississippi, from the Earliest Period*, Albert James Pickett, pg 413; *American Convention 1818*, Wikipedia the free encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase#; *George Kee Island* by Charles Knapp, May 2008; *Perdido, Home Alone on Goat Island* By Terry Lewis, Gulf Coast Spotlight, Jan 14, 1994, pg 8; *Old River*, Hook and Bullet, <https://www.hookandbullet.com/fishing-old-river-gulf-shores-al/>; *Fun Facts of Perdido Key*, lifeinperdidokey, Sept 2011; *Ono Island*, Chuck Barnes, HomeSmart Sunshine Realty; *Rabbit Island, Places We Protect*, The Nature Conservancy, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/rabbit-island/>; *Deeds & Records*, Baldwin County Courthouse, Bay Minette, AL; *Justia Regulations*, <https://regulations.justia.com/states/alabama/title-220/chapter-220-6/section-220-6-62/>; *Ono Island*, Pinterest, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/776941373208713760/>; *Ono Island*, The Wayback Machine Ono Island; *Ono Island? Oh Yes!*, Second Shelters; *Ono Island Sold for \$1 million*, Onlooker newspaper, Mar 9, 1967 pg 1; Pensacola News-Journal newspaper, 1924,1925, 1926; 'Mayor' *A. B. McFall*, Montgomery Advertiser newspaper, Oct, 1947 pg 8. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library, Foley, AL.