

YOKE LORE

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

Volume 32 No 9

Sept 2023

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

Baldwin County Genealogical Society
Presents



Tim Russell

“United States Veterans’
Gift of Democracy to the World”

Saturday September 9, 2023
10:00 AM Meeting Room ~ Foley Public Library

As a Captain in the U.S. Army and Vietnam War Veteran **Tim Russell** will speak on the United States Veterans who have given their lives in military service and disabled veterans who suffer injuries from service for our democracy. Also, he will speak of the effect on millions of people who lost family members serving our country. “What happens to our democracy in the future?” will be his closing remarks of his program.

Tim has also served in other government positions: Alabama State Revenue Commissioner; two terms as Baldwin County Probate Judge; three terms as City of Foley Mayor. He has been acknowledged by testifying before the President of the United States and the U.S. Senate.

Tim Russell graduated from Foley High School, receiving his Accounting Degree from University of Alabama, a Masters Degree in Business Administration from University of South Alabama. Tim is married to the former Sandy Schultz of Foley for 52+ years, proud father of three wonderful children and five grandchildren.

TIM RUSSELL - Thank you for your Service!

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.**

All meetings are open to interested public.

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:

14 October, 2023: Judge Frank (Trippy) McGuire, “The Creek War of 1813-14, William “Red Eagle” Weatherford”. Retired Judge McGuire teaches 4th graders in Opp, AL about the Creek War.

NO November Meeting: Veteran’s Day, Foley Library Closed for observance.

9 December, 2023: Christmas Social for BCGS Members and Board of Directors

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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BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY August 12, 2023

MEMBERS/GUEST members / 2 guest total 33 present.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tempore Mike Glass at 10:00 am.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING- are published in "Yore Lore" approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tina Graham gave the treasures report: The beginning bank balance on 01 July 2023 was \$1,950.69 ; Deposits 73.00; * Expenses 8.65 ; Ending bank balance as of 31 July 2023 is \$2,015.04.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sunshine: Coletta Bailey reported she sent out several pieces of correspondence by email and US mail.

Obituary: The obituaries are up to date thanks to Janice Hudson.

Baldwin County Fair- Coletta Bailey brought an example of a collage she made to display family photo, artifacts, and articles that you can do to showcase your relatives. She is looking for old photos before 1925 of people living in Baldwin County. There is a sign-up sheet in the general meeting if you would like to help. Remember you will need your BCGS Badge to be able to enter the fair free of charge.

OLD BUSINESS: We are still in need of a President and Vice-President. Bob Bailey will be President Tempore at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Janice Hudson surveyed Bon Secour Cemetery. Janice told how she surveyed the cemetery, and about the book she compiled of the event. She has donated a copy of the book to the Foley Public Library.

GENEALOGY MINUTE Billie Nardell talked on how to try to correct mistakes in other people's trees.

GUEST SPEAKER Barbara Thompson announced our speaker, Jeanette Bornholt. Jeanette is the Librarian for the Alabama, Local History and Genealogy Collection of the Foley Public Library. She is also a Lifetime member of The Baldwin County Genealogical Society. Her talk was on "Errors, Lies, Mistakes, and More in Genealogy".

UP COMING EVENTS:

October 14, 2023 Judge Frank McGuire will speak on William "Red Eagle" Weatherford
November 11, 2023 No Meeting Veterans Day
December 9, 2023 Members Christmas Social

DOOR PRIZES AWARDED: There were 5 door prizes awarded.

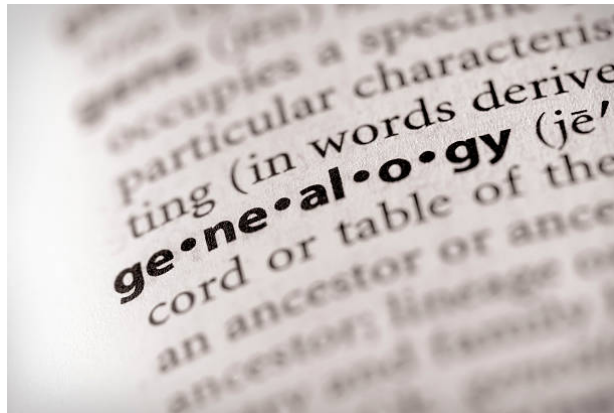
ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned to meet again on 09 September 2023 at 10 AM in Meeting Room of the Foley Public Library.

Respectfully Submitted: Billie Nardell. Recording Secretary

"Quick genealogy tips and tricks".

13 tips to try when your family tree leaves you stumped

1. Re-examine everything. ...
2. Explore all available sources. ...
3. Try name variations. ...
4. Expand age ranges. ...
5. Build up the bigger picture. ...
6. Brush up on social history. ...
7. Ask for help. ...
8. Browse rather than search.
9. Create an online family tree.
10. Go Pro as in professional genealogist.
11. Take DNA test.
12. Keep learning.
13. Never give up.



Early Brickyards & Potteries, Baldwin County, Alabama



Fairhope Clay Products, kilns next to Fish River. photo c1940, Destroyed in 1980s (courtesy USA Archives)

Abercrombie of Alabama, to produce brick for the federal government. Neither man knew anything about brickmaking.

An abundance of local clay in **Alabama**, especially in **Baldwin County** and with its many waterways to be utilized in transporting made it attractive so by 1853, **Raiford** began acquiring property in **Baldwin County** along the east side of **Mobile Bay** near **Blakely**. Part of the land came for **Raiford's Mexican War** (1846-1848) service and the remainder he purchased for about \$10,000. As early as 1812, **Raiford** is recorded in Baldwin County records giving power of attorney to his son **Philip H. Raiford, Jr.**

Anderson Abercrombie, with his brother, **Charles**, after moving to Alabama, became leading plantation owners, political leaders and business entrepreneurs. Anderson and a third brother, **James Abercrombie** are listed in 1851 purchasing lands along the **Tensaw River** and in Bon Secour area, (Section 43, T1S, R2E) south west of Magnolia Springs. Records do not show how **Abercrombie** and **Raiford** became partners in brickmaking in 1854 forming their company to manufacture bricks for the federal government.



Live Oaks on Weeks Bay

But as early as 1783, lands on the **Eastern Shore** just to the north of **Weeks Bay** was being cultivated by **Louis Baudin, Nicholas Weeks, John Ward** and others. Their land grants encompassed thousands of acres with abundance of clay allowing brickmaking to flourish, much along **Weeks Bay** and **Fish River**. **Nicholas Weeks** received in 1794, a warrant by **Spanish Government** situated on east side of **Mobile River**, and 1803, "entitled a patent for 1200 acres beginning in mouth of a Creek or Bayou running south ... and down the river with it meanders to the beginning." The body of water named and is known as **Weeks Bay**. A large brickyard was established near the banks, today the name **Brickyard Road** is reminder of its past occupation.

In February, 1815, **Louis Baudin** is listed as descendant in estate of widow **Marian R Baudin** for lands, listing one tract on east side of **Mobile Bay**, also a stock on the waters of **Fish River**. **John Cook** bought a certain lot of land lying on south side and north side of **Bon Secour River**.

An abundance of local clay of various hues, brick and pottery making became a huge industry



Live Oaks on Weeks Bay allowing kilns to be built throughout **Baldwin County**.

Left: Showing example of two types of kilns for both brick and pottery firing found throughout country. This photo by marroktehuulf of Nelsonville Star Brick kilns in Ohio.

Brickmaking became one of the most important building materials in the region as evidenced by newspaper items. Items:

MARCH, 1824: AT TATE'S OLD BRICKYARD PLANTATION IN LITTLE RIVER, UNDER A CAIRN OF

NATIVE STONES ... LIE THE REMAINS OF RED EAGLE!" (WILLIAM WEATHERFORD).

MAY, 1902, WORK ON THE BAY MINETTE BRICK YARD IS PROGRESSING NICELY AND IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE IT IS IN OPERATION."

OCT, 1902: "PROF. P. C. BOUDOUSQUIE AND OTHERS HAVE BOUGHT THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE BRICK YARD, AT ROCK CREEK AND HAVE ARRANGED TO START IN DEVELOPING THE CLAYS OF WHICH THERE ARE NUMEROUS BEDS. THE PROPERTY CONTAINS 120 ACRES WITH LARGE FRONTAGE ON THE BAY,

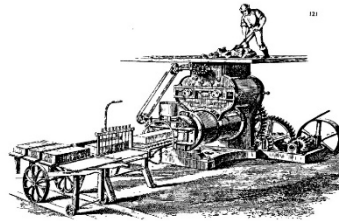


Figure 7.2. Ramp-loaded brickmaking machine by Henry Clayton, c.1900.

1860
ramp
loaded
brickmaking

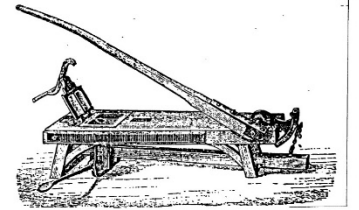


Figure 4.7. Early lever-operated brick press. From Belle Bourry, A Treatise on Ceramic Industries (1901) p.2881

1901 hand-press brickmaking

Because northern bricks did not withstand the destructive action of the atmosphere, the United States War Department compared the qualities, prices of bricks made in other areas of the country, the result being orders placed in the south. Difficulty of adequate transportation, the increased demand for brick became acute allowing the war department to react favorably to a proposal in early 1850s by **Phillip H. Raiford** and partner **General Anderson**

THE BLUFFS RISING TO 13 FEET. THERE A 22 KINDS OF CLAY FROM KAOLIN DOWN TO ORDINARY BRICK CLAY. FIRE AND VITRIFIED BRICK HAVE BEEN MADE HERE SINCE 1770. THE BRICK FOR FORTS MORGAN AND GAINES WERE MADE HERE. THE NEW COMPANY WILL MAKE TILING, BRICK, TERRA COTTA, ETC. OF THIS, WE SHALL SAY MORE LATER. STANDARD."

FEB. 1923: "MR. PAUL HAEBEDUS IS OPENING A LARGE BRICK YARD WITH THE LATEST IMPROVED



The old "bee hive" kiln.



MACHINERY."
SEPT. 1923:



EXCERPT FROM AD: "I OWN 20 ACRES OF LAND WITH DEPOSIT OF GOOD BRICK CLAY SITUATED ON WIFUN CREEK, BETWEEN EIBERTA AND WIFUN, PLENTY OF WATER IN THIS CREEK AT ALL TIMES OF YEAR, ALSO AN ABUNDANCE OF SAND. ... WILL EITHER SELL THIS LAND FOR BRICK MANUFACTURING OR ... REASONABLE PROPOSITION TO INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY FOR THAT PURPOSE. FRANK BARCHARD, SR. FOLEY."

FEB. 1926: BRICK YARD TO HAVE CAPACITY OF 20,000 DAILY. PATENTED PROCESS IS TO BE USED AT NEW PLANT IN OAK DISTRICT. ... NEW BRICK YARD SOUTH OF FOLEY ON THE BANKS OF BOGGY BAYOU WILL SOON BE IN OPERATION. MIC CRUMP OF OAK IS PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER IN SAND, LIME AND BRICK COMPANY."

OCT 1926: VERNANT PARK. A CROWD OF YOUNG FOLKS ATTENDED THE DANCE AND FISH FRY AT BRICK YARD PARK SATURDAY NIGHT GIVEN BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF VERNANT PARK."

APR. 1959: A BRICKYARD WAS LOCATED AT THE PRESENT SITE OF THE ROY SPNEY AND TIL HELTON HOMES, WITH WHITE BRICK MADE THERE." THE LAND WAS BOUGHT BY THE HELTONS FROM WALTER WARD.

Fairhope Clay Products Company of Fairhope and Fish River, operated since 1896 as a clay pit, pottery kiln and commercial tile and brickyard.

Clay City tile, Hwy 81 in Daphne

his kiln in Clay City

Tom Jones, potter,

J. Wingender, Marlow, ALA 2

Barn made of

Historically, clay deposits along the eastern shore of **Mobile Bay** were some of the earliest locations of historic pottery operations in the states. Clay was already an industrial and cultural staple on the banks of **Fish River** between 1850 and 1900. A barn made entirely of **Clay City** tile stands at edge of Highway 81 in **Daphne**, built by local farmer **Jay Corte**'s father to store feed for his cattle in the winter. It is still in good working use today and one of the largest tile made buildings in **Baldwin County**.

In 1930, W. A. Young **"CONSTRUCTED A NEW GLAZING KILN ALONG NEW LINES HAS TURNED OUT SOME BEAUTIFUL WORK. ... DESIGNING WAS BY MARY MILLS QUARLES AND WILLIAM AEBRECHT YOUNG." PEASANT POTTER BECAME QUITE A VOGUE IN IN DEMAND IN HOMES WHERE ART IS APPRECIATED AS WELL AS THE BETTER TEA ROOMS."**

The work was done on the potter's wheel and glazed in one brilliant color. Mugs, tankards, pitchers, plates, cups, teapots, platters, vases and other useful pottery became known in wide range of shape and colors.

Garden pottery drew considerable attention at the **Potterswheel Studio** in making of stools, iron tables with tile tops, garden markers, wall fountains. Unique feature of this was '**garden sculpture potter**' where work is run upon wheel, then cut and sculptured, joined and finished producing pelicans, seals, frogs, elephants, and birds in design and striking color.

Many pottery pieces were fired for special needs and businesses such an "Albany glazed jug" marked "**Frank Kuppersmith, Fine Whiskey, 491 N. Royal Mobile, Ala.**" and a "Salt glazed jug, marked "**Alabama City, Marshall & Co.**"

Some other potters: 1880s-1890s; **James Beasley**, ca 1880 pottery of **Montrose**. **John McAdam**, also of **Montrose**, in 1901 moved to **Escambia, Florida** where he took charge of a large brick yard. **Anna Belle Gabel**, granddaughter of one of **Eastern Shores'** earliest settlers, **John Israel Gabel**, was one of the few early successful women potters.

In 1939 **Edith Harwell**, popular potter, ceramist, and author, opened the **Pinewood Potter** of **Fairhope**. She wrote a detailed paper on the construction and operation of the type pottery kiln she used.

Oct 1963, Pottery Made in Baldwin - **Mr and Mrs. Jim Potmesil**, clay potters in **Robertsdale, AL**. **Jim Potmesil**, using an old potter's wheel, made their pottery from **Baldwin County** clay by same method used throughout the past 4000 years, winning awards for their work throughout the years. Later, he and his wife moved their studio to **Foley, Alabama**.

Baldwin County clay seem ideal for bricks and pottery through the years and is still going strong... Brickyards and Potteries.

Left: Trademark owls from Jim Potmesil Studio Pottery, Foley, Alabama

Source: *Bricks and the Industrial Revolution*, Brian Potter, 2021; *Brickmaking and Brickmakers*, Tamara Gaskell, Sarah K. Filik; *Interesting Baldwin History*, Jesse Smith, Fairhope Courier newspaper, Dec., 1925 pg 9; Deeds & Records, Baldwin County Courthouse records, Bay Minette, AL; *Raiford and Abercrombie: Pensacola's Premier Antebellum Manufacturer*, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Florida Historical Society, Jan 1974, pg 247-250; Baldwin Times newspaper, May 1902 pg 3, 1923 pg 5; The Onlooker newspaper, 1926 pg 1; *Vernant Park*, The Onlooker newspaper, Foley, Oct 1926 pg 3; *Chief "Red Eagle" Led A Life of Conflicts*, Baldwin Times newspaper, Feb 1939 pg 25; http://tomjonespottery.net/about_us.htm; *Meeting artists along the way*, September 10, 2013, Confetti Thoughts, Fairhope, AL <https://confettithoughts.com/tag/fairhope-al/>; *Folk Pottery of Alabama*: <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/media/salt-glaze/>; *J. Wingender*, The Georgeanna H. Greer Collection; *Fairhope Developing Interesting Pottery*, Fairhope Courier newspaper, Jun 1930, pg 1; The Onlooker newspaper, Dec 1925 p5

