



Guide to the Records of Baldwin County Courthouse
Prepared by: Mexcie Robinson, 2018

Baldwin County Department of Archives and History
305 E. 2nd Street – Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

A project of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History

Edited by Felisha Anderson, 2018

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Location: A1A4, Box 1
Title: Baldwin County Courthouse
Dates: 1895-2018
Quantity: 1 Box
Object ID: 144

Abstract: Baldwin County Courthouse documents

Contact Information

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Bay Minette, Alabama 36507
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Administration Information:

Preferred Citation – Baldwin County Courthouse (1895-2018), Repository A

The file unit – Manila Acid Free Folders

Series – N/A

Subgroup: N/A

Record Group: General Records of the Department of Archives and History

Repository: Baldwin County Archives, Bay Minette Alabama
Repository A

Statement of Purpose: The role of Baldwin County Department of Archives and History is to preserve the inheritance of the people of Baldwin County for present and future generations by preserving, acquiring, and making accessible the documented heritage of the County. In order to do this, we will acquire archival material which reflect Baldwin County's political, social and economic history and development; we provide a suitable secure and safe accommodation and preservation facility for acquisitions, thus encouraging use of the acquisitions by researchers of various interest and backgrounds, including genealogists, local historians, sociologist, journalists, political scientists, students and the general public.

General Acquisition Rule – The County Archives accepts the general principle that it is its responsibility to ensure to the best of its ability that all the collections in our care are adequately housed, conserved and documented. Primary consideration is given to the Archives ability to provide proper care and storage for any deposited archival material. No archival material will be considered for acquisition if its physical condition exceeds the County Archives financial ability to provide for its care and preservation.

We will not acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any item, unless the Archivist is satisfied that valid title to the item in question can be acquired. No item will be collected which has been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin, or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned, in violation of that country's law.

Where an item is offered as a gift in good faith and the prospective donor is uncertain of the identity of the legal owner/s and the County Archivist is unable to find this out because of its own reasonable efforts, the Archivist shall be permitted to accept the item, provided a permanent and detailed note of the circumstances and known facts is made at the time of acceptance.

We will abide by all laws regarding archives and recognizes the jurisdiction of other authorities in this area.

The County Archives shall always, be aware of and sensitive to the concerns of all communities and traditions within the county when considering the acquisition of archival material.

The acceptance of items on loan, normally for a finite period for exhibition or specific research, may be authorized by the Archivist. In exceptional cases, a privately-owned item of major importance that falls within the scope of this policy may be accepted on a finite long loan. No item will be received on 'permanent loan,' a term which has no legal status. The period of all loans will normally be agreed in writing between the Archivist and the owner of the item at the time of deposit. Where the term of a loan has expired, it may be renewed or extended for further finite periods, at the discretion of both the owner and the Archivist.

The Archivist undertakes to do everything possible to ensure the deposited items are preserved to the highest standards.

The Archivist reserves the right to refuse to accept as part of the collection material it deems to be extraneous or of no historical value.

The Archivist hereby confirms its acceptance of the principle that archives are held in trust for future generations. The deaccessioning of any items from any collection will not take place unless the depositor is in full agreement and the Archivist agrees that the item in question is no longer considered an item worthy of permanent preservation in the County Archives.

Index Terms

Researchers seeking materials on related subjects, people, and issues should search the catalog by using these terms:

Courthouse

Court

Probate

Daphne

Bay Minette

Baldwin

Jail

Water System

Alterations

Additions

Road

Steel

Table

Drawing

Pictures

Map

Persons:

Geo. D. Barnard

T.A. Booth

Geo. A. Cherry

Tnos H. Cogswell

Mike Denney

Russel Dick

David Donelson

Joe Faust

Chas Hall

George Hoyle

Martha J. Lide

Chris Miller

Thomas B. Norton, Jr.

William O'Neal

Gas. W. O'Neal

Mary O'Neal

Hattie O'Neal

Florence O'Neal

Charles C. Partin

John Penton

Wanda Phillips

Dess Lavender Sangster

David Staples

Agency History: Baldwin County Courthouse a historic site in Bay Minette.

Although Bay Minette is the most centrally located township in Baldwin County, it was not chosen as the county seat when the county was established. Baldwin County is the third oldest county in the state of Alabama, created on December 21, 1809, ten years before Alabama officially became a state.

The first county seat location was at McIntosh Bluff on the Tombigbee River but it was transferred to Blakeley only one year later in 1810. In 1898, the State Legislature decided to move the county seat to Daphne. In 1900 however, the Alabama State legislature officially named Bay Minette the county seat and on October 1, 1901, Bay Minette town leaders officially dedicated a courthouse to town. The city of Daphne resisted its loss of status however and refused to surrender the powers of government.

In order to move the county records to Bay Minette, town leaders devised a scheme to lure the sheriff and his deputy out of Daphne with a false story. While the officers were pursuing the false story, a group of Bay Minette men stealthily traveled the 30 miles to Daphne, stole the Baldwin County Courthouse records and delivered them to the new courthouse in Bay Minette. Thus, the town was established as the Baldwin County seat.

The original courthouse was renovated twice, once in 1955 and again in 1996.

Scope and Content –

The Collection consists of One box with seven file folders:

- Box 1: Baldwin County Courthouse
- Folder 1- Baldwin County Courthouse Pictures (1868-2018)
- Folder 2- Correspondence, Documents (1890-1991)
- Folder 3- Baldwin County Courthouse Road. Daphne (February 11, 1895)
- Folder 4- Alterations and Additions to Baldwin County Courthouse and Jail, Bay Minette, AL (April 19, 1955)
- Folder 5- Baldwin County Courthouse Double Steel Table Drawings
- Folder 6- Daphne Courthouse Map
- Folder 7- Water System (Daphne, AL)

Arrangement

Chronological

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions on access to these records

Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain

Inventory/ Container List

Box 1: Baldwin County Courthouse

Folder 1- Baldwin County Courthouse Pictures (1868-2018)

Folder 2- Correspondence, Documents (1890-1991)

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