



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 2432
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www.birminghamgenealogy.org

<http://birminghamgenealogy.wordpress.com/>

NEWSLETTER No. 486

April 18, 2013

General Meeting for April: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27th on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the Arrington Auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 1:30!

The program for April: Please join us as BGS member **Jim Anderson** presents “Using the Alabama State Loose Records Database/Index on the Web.” Jim is currently the webmaster (and treasurer) for the Alabama Genealogical Society and supports the society in other technology matters. He is the database architect for the AGS Loose Records web index that gives searchable access to over fifty thousand names culled from archival records of Alabama probate courts - the subject of which is his presentation today. With a degree in Film and TV production his early career was producing programs for the military, and later, the Alabama ETV (now APTV) network. Following work in medical television at UAB, Jim moved into sales of AV and video equipment, and computers. After owning and managing an Apple dealership for fourteen years Jim retired to pursue his family history research while working in a theatre troupe bringing performances to seniors in retirement homes throughout Jefferson County. Jim has previously made two extremely interesting presentations to BGS: First, the recounting of a murder in Shelby County and it's connection with a prominent Birmingham business man, and second, an analysis of the question of who is buried on the Birmingham Country Club golf course. **Hope to see you at the April meeting!**

Research & Genealogical Tips: Historic Atlanta Newspapers

Historic Atlanta Newspapers Online – a new digital database providing online access to 14 newspaper titles published in Atlanta from 1847 to 1922 is now available through the Digital Library of Georgia, housed at The University of Georgia Libraries. The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive (<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/atlnewspapers>) contains more than 67,000 newspaper pages and provides historical images that are both full-text searchable and can be browsed by date. The archive includes the following Atlanta newspaper titles: Atlanta Daily Examiner (1857), Atlanta Daily Herald (1873-1876), Atlanta Georgian (1906-1911), Atlanta Intelligencer (1851, 1854-1871), Atlantian (1911-1922), Daily/Georgia Weekly Opinion (1867-1868), Gate-City Guardian (1861), Georgia Literary and Temperance Crusader (1860-1861), New Era (1869-1872), Southern Confederacy (1861-1864), Southern Miscellany, and Upper Georgia Whig (1847), Southern World (1882-1885), Sunny South (1875-1907), Weekly Constitution (1869-1882). You will note that the above list includes a lot of Civil War newspapers. They should provide valuable information to historians, genealogists, re-enactors, and many others. The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive is a project of the Digital Library of Georgia as part of the Georgia Home PLACE initiative. The project is supported with federal LSTA funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Georgia Public Library Service, a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Other newspaper archives available through the Digital Library of Georgia include the Macon Telegraph Archive (1826-1908), the Columbus Enquirer Archive (1828-1890), the Milledgeville Historic Newspaper Archive (1808-1920), the Southern Israelite Archive (1929-1958, 1984-1986), and the Red and Black Archive (1893-2006). These archives can be accessed at: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html>

The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner
Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor



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Anniston Star, 30 August 1943 - TOLL OF DEAD IN MINE BLAST SOARS TO 21

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 30. -- (AP) -- Twenty-one dead were counted today from the two gas explosions which late Saturday and early yesterday tore through the Republic Steel Corporation's No. 2 Sayreton mine here. Twenty-three others were burned, several of the critically. Among the dead were E. J. McCROSSIN, chief state mine inspector; GEORGE FERGUSON, Sayreton night superintendent, and WILLIAM GOODWIN, chief mine inspector here for Republic. They headed rescue parties which entered the mine after the first blast. E. I. EVANS, Souchern district manager for Republic, issued this statement of the disaster: "The first explosion (at 10:20 p. m. Saturday) seriously interrupted the ventilating system and damaged the stoppings, doors and regulators in the ninth left section area. The second explosion at 12:40 a. m. yesterday was more violent and extended the damage which already existed and started eight small fires." EVANS said the origin of the explosions was unknown. FRANK LOGGINS, one of the injured miners, described the first explosion as a "long sheet of flame." "I was stunned and burned," he said. "I began to stumble in the dark toward the mouth of the slope. My light was out and I stepped on several bodies." Another miner, ANDY M. KING, said he was "blown at least 30 feet through the air" by the second explosion inside the mine. His hair was singed, but he was otherwise unhurt. KING, a member of the first rescue group said "when he reached No. 10 left (section of the mine where both explosions occurred), we found six bodies stretched along the track, one behind the other. "They must have been running when they died." "Another man was down on his hands and knees, and must have tried to get low to escape the flames." A company spokesman estimated that 100 of the regular night crew of 135 men made their way to safety unhurt between the explosions. EVANS said nurses were being flown here from Cleveland, O., to aid in caring for the injured. Others, he added, have been brought here from Gadsen, Ala., where Republic operates a blast furnace. Sayreton, which produces approximately 100,000 tons of coking coal monthly, employs about 1,100 men on all shifts and is the state's third largest coal producer. McCROSSIN, who had inspected the mine many times, rated it as gassy. The dead, in addition to McCROSSIN, FERGUSON and GOODWIN, were listed by the company as follows: JOHN FRAME, assistant superintendent at Sayreton; J. V. SHARIT; S. O. OLDACRC; W. E. FAUCETT; WILLIAM PENNINGTON; JOHN W. GUTHRIE; BUD JONES; JIM McCOMBS; HENRY HANN; GEORGE SELLERS; TOM McALPINE; W. H. ABEL; HERBERT GILLEY; AMOS McGRUDER; JOE DAVENPORT; WILL GILES; C. E. SAXON and WILL NEAL. The section of the mine where the explosions occurred is approximately one and a half miles below the surface.

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: If The Story Were True...

When trying to "prove" that family tradition, ask yourself what records would have been generated if it were true. And, when you are looking for those records and analyzing the information that they contain, keep yourself open to the possibility that the story may not even be true at all.

(c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"
<http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, TIPDATE.