



## THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 2432  
Birmingham, AL 35201

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[www.birminghamgenealogy.org](http://www.birminghamgenealogy.org)

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 497**

**April 16, 2014**

**General Meeting for April:** The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26th 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.

**The program for April:** Please join us as Yvonne Crumpler, former President of the Birmingham Genealogical Society and the Alabama Genealogical Society and former head of the Southern History Department of the Birmingham Public Library, will give us a presentation on **American Land Records**. Yvonne will provide a power point program discussing the history of land records with information on public land states and state land states, with a brief explanation of the different type land surveys. Please join us and bring a friend!

**Genealogical Query:** I am doing research on Sarah Charlotte Sims. The information that I have is as follows. She was born 19 Jun 1806 in Abbeville Co., SC. the daughter of Thomas Sims and Margaret Elizabeth Mary Smith. She married David Addison McCombs Sr. 2 Jan 1821 in SC. At some point they moved to Jefferson Co., AL. The date I have for her death is 6 Feb 1896 in Bradford in Jefferson Co., AL. I would like to have any information on this family. I also would like to contact any others doing the same genealogical research,



Thank you for your help – Stanley Hobbs @ stan1hobbs@yahoo.com

### **Research & Genealogical Tips: Guardianship for Child Does Not Mean Parents Are Dead**

Your relative leaves his grandchildren \$200 each in his 1824 will, naming an apparent neighbor as their guardian, pending approval of the court. You cannot assume that the parents of the grandchildren are deceased. It could very well be that the grandfather did not trust the father of the children to "do right" in regards to the children's inheritance and naming the guardian served as an "end run" around the son-in-law.

### **Were Those Adopted Children Related?**

Don't always assume that "adopted" children were unrelated to the family. There could have been some relationship between the adopted child and the parents. The child could have been the grandchild of the couple or a child of a sibling or other family member. But there's also nothing saying that the adopted child was related either. It's just something to think about.

### **Dating Deeds & Deed Dates**

There may be several dates associated with the land record for your ancestor. Make certain you understand which is which and how they fit together:

Date of execution--the date the deed is signed.

Date of acknowledgement--the date the deed is acknowledged--usually in open court.

Date of recording--the date the deed is recorded.

Significant gaps may indicate something--or may just indicate your ancestor took a while to get things done. In some cases, there may not be a date of acknowledgement.

© Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"

<http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, TIPDATE.

**The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner**

*Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor*



## **2014 Officers & Directors**

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### **Land Record Research**

The land records that are generally of most interest to genealogists are the land entry case files. These are records that document the transfer of public lands from the U.S. Government to private ownership. There are over ten million such individual land transactions in the custody of the National Archives. These case files cover land entries in all 30 public land states. The case files were filed as either military bounty land warrants, pre-1908 general land entry files, or as post-1908 land entry files. The information required to access and order copies of the records will differ depending on which of these 3 categories the transaction falls into. For land records in the remaining 20 states that were never part of the original public domain, check the State Archives for that particular state. This includes the original 13 colonies, plus Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.

#### **Land Patents:**

Land patents are the legal documents that transferred land ownership from the U.S. Government to individuals. Now you can search for land patent records online, for both Eastern and Western states. See the Bureau of Land Management's Land Patent Search page. Please note that this includes only patented or completed land entries. Those case files that were cancelled or relinquished will not be there, and may contain just as much useful information for the researcher. For this information, researchers will need to access the tract books.

#### **How Land Records Can Help You:**

Land case entry files can contain a wealth of genealogical and legal information. Depending upon the type and time period of the land entry, the case file may yield only a few facts already known to the researcher or it may present new insights about ancestors, family history, title, and land use issues. For example, the records may attest to the one's age, place of birth, citizenship, military service, literacy, and economic status, and may even include similar information about family members. But even the smallest case files can establish locations of land ownership or settlement and dates essential to utilize other resources at NARA, such as census, court, and military service and pension records.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/land/>