**THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**
**P.O. Box 2432**
**Birmingham, AL 35201**

**Founded August 15, 1959**
**www.birminghamgenealogy.org**
**http://birminghamgenealogy.wordpress.com/**

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| **NEWSLETTER No. 490** | **August 10, 2013** |

**General Meeting for August**: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 24th 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 August**: Please join us on Saturday, August 24th as Maurice Lovelady, past BGS President and current President of the Walker County Genealogical Society presents **Getting To Know Walker County and Walker County Genealogical Research**.  Walker County was formed in 1824 from parts of Marion and Tuscaloosa Counties. It was named for John W. Walker, one of Alabama's first United States Senators.  Jasper, named in honor of Sergeant William Jasper, a Revolutionary War Soldier, was settled in 1815, but was not incorporated until 1888. The first significant growth of the area was realized in 1886, when the Kansas City-Memphis and Birmingham and the Sheffield and Birmingham railroads were completed through Jasper. The population grew from 200 people in 1886 to more than 3,000 in 1890. In a special edition of an 1891 The Mountain Eagle, it was stated that there were 400 coke ovens in operation, six coal mines, one foundry and machine shop, two saw mills, one brick work, two sand stone quarries, four hotels and two banks. Other towns of Walker County include:  **Carbon Hill,** settled in 1886 because of coal mining and the railroad, is joined today by manufacturing and agriculture industries. **Cordova**, originally called Dent, began when people settled along the Warrior River around 1882. In 1890, a large cotton mill was built, providing employment for nearly 500 people. **Dora,** located in a valley through which the Kansas City-Memphis and Birmingham Railroad was built in 1886, was a whistle stop-watering point called Sharon. Today, the city is primarily engaged in commerce along U.S. Highway 78. **Eldridge,** was originally called Camp Springs, an Indian camp site. With the completion of the Bylff Road it became a stage coach stop.  **Kansas,** located in the extreme western portion of the county, was a stop on the Burlington Northern Railroad. **Nauvoo,** located in northwestern Walker County, was earlier known as Ingle Mills until Tom Carroll named it after Nauvoo, Illinois. The town was established in 1888 because of the Northern Alabama Railway construction. **Oakman**, one of the oldest towns in the county was called Day's Gap and Marietta prior to 1895 when it was incorporated. **Parrish,** originated as Hewitt, was a post office served by the Pony Express and became the junction of the Sheffield, Birmingham and Tennessee and the Georgia Pacific Railroads. **Sipsey,** located on the banks of the Warrior River, is the site of Warrior Town, an original Indian settlement.  **Sumiton**, was incorporated in 1952 and named because of its location at one of the highest elevations in the county. Earlier names included Commercial and Democrat. **Please join us for the August meeting!**

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### Research & Genealogical Tips: Are the Steps & the Halfs Mixed Up?

Did that obituary confuse the half-siblings, step-siblings and the full siblings? An estate settlement will be concerned about the accuracy of those relationships. An obituary, being a less formal document, may not be. Always consider the possibility that relationships in an obituary may not be entirely correct.

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

**CORRECTION FOR THE JUNE 2013 PIONEER TRAILS:** The author of the article entitled "Indians & The Census 1790- 2010" is Roberta Estes. Her surname was misspelled in the magazine. My apologies to the author.

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### Marion Herald, 1 September 1887

A WALKER COUNTY STORY - [Weekly Headlight] - Uncle LEVI BATES, one of the old pioneers of Walker County was entertaining a little knot of friends the other day with reminiscence of old times in Walker County. He says about fifty years ago he was out on a bear hunt with a party of hunters and that on a little creek at a spot about a quarter of a mile from where Cap. LONG'S residence at Cordova now stands, he killed three large bears as fast as he could load his old flint and steel musket. The first came up and stopped in the creek for a moment and as he was about to fire, disappeared behind some undergrowth, but in a few minutes was followed by a larger bear which stopped at the identical spot where the former stood. He fired making a dead shot. The bear which had just passed on hearing the dying growls of its companion returned just as he had re-loaded, which he also shot and killed. Uncle LEVI then loaded for the third time, but not a moment too soon, for the third bear, larger than either of the two which lay dead at his feet, approached. Again the old musket report sounded through the woods and another bear lay dead at his feet. Uncle LEVI says that it was a common sight in those days to see a thousand or fifteen hundred turkeys in a drove, and that it was a small matter to go and till two or three deer before ten o'clock in the morning.

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### THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

#### Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Names That Appear from Nowhere

Those middle or first names of family members that appear out of the blue could be from relatives you do not yet know about, famous people, locations, or someone's maiden name. And it is always possible your ancestor simply pulled the name out of thin air.

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