



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

**P.O. Box 2432
Birmingham, AL 35201**

**Founded March 15, 1959
www.birminghamgenealogy.org**

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

NEWSLETTER No. 484

February 15, 2013

General Meeting for February: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 23rd 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 February: Please join us as **Mary Taylor**, current BGS Program Chairperson presents **“What is Happening with our Genealogical Societies?”** Genealogical societies have been going through some difficult times the last few years. As older members are lost for one reason or another, societies have struggled to attract and retain new members. Organizations have attempted a wide variety of tactics to raise interest and draw individuals to their activities and then to join the society. Mary will discuss ways we can attract new members and increase our membership.

Research & Genealogical Tips: Does It Mean It Really Happened?

A marriage license does not mean a couple actually got married. It means they requested permission to get married. A marriage record indicates they got married. A declaration of intention does not indicate a person actually became a citizen. A naturalization record does. Filing a homestead claim does not mean a person actually got the property. A final patent issued for the land does. Think about exactly what a record means and, more importantly, what it does not mean.

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

The Atlanta Constitution, 26 March 1901

Birmingham, Ala., March 25. – Shortly before 10 o'clock this morning a fearful tornado swept over the southern section of this city, traveling in an easterly direction, leaving death and demolition in its wake. The number of killed is estimated at twenty-five and the destruction of property at a quarter of a million dollars. Eighteen bodies have been recovered from the debris and scores of injured have been removed to the hospitals. Among the dead are Dr. G. C. Chapman, of the firm of Tally & Chapman, who conducted a private infirmary in this city, and the wife and infant child of Hon. Robert J. Lowe, chairman of the democratic state executive committee. From Twentieth street the storm plowed its way eastward through the block between Avenues H and I, tearing away the roofs of a number of residences, smashing in windows, blowing down trees and fences, and, crossing Thirtieth street, struck the residence of Robert J. Lowe, at No. 815 South Thirtieth street, leveling it to the ground and instantly killing Mr. Lowe's four-weeks-old child and fatally crushing Mrs. Lowe, who died within fifteen minutes after being removed from the wreckage. The cook was badly hurt and may die. Mr. Lowe and the nurse escaped with slight bruises. As soon as the storm passed a number of men rushed to Mr. Lowe's residence and made heroic efforts to rescue the buried bodies. All of the telephone and electric car line wires were down and it was impossible to communicate with the people down town. It was, therefore, impossible to secure medical aid for at least an hour after the catastrophe.

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



2013 Officers & Directors

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Director: Gail Pugh (2013)

Director: Barbara Smith (2013)

Director: David Hamilton (2014)

Director: Carol Massey (2014)

Director: Scott Hogan (2015)

Director: Scott Martin (2015)

Upcoming 2013 Genealogical Events

Spring 2013 Seminar: Alabama Genealogical Society

Pathways to the Past: How to Locate Original Records, On Site & Online

**Dorothy Williams Potter, Elizabeth Crabtree Wells,
and Yvonne Crumpler**

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

Brock Forum Auditorium / Dwight Beeson Business Building

Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

The Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society will host its annual Ancestor Swap Meet, Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Activity center in Gadsden, Alabama. J. Mark Lowe will be our speaker as we remember the 200th anniversary of the Forgotten War, The Second War for American Independence, Mr. Madison's War, The War of 1812. Join us for information, fun, vendors and door prizes. A hot lunch is included in the registration fee. There will be a workshop on Friday night. Several other events will be taking place prior to the Swap Meet. Vendors are welcome. For more information, contact us at ancestorswapmeet@bellsouth.net

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: WHY?

Why was that document created? Why was the informant the informant and not someone else?
Why did they get married where they did? Why was the deed recorded when it was?

Ask "why" about as many things on a record as you can. Even if you are unable to answer
"why," sometimes just asking is helpful and gets you thinking.

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