



**THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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

**Founded March 15, 1959**

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

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

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**NEWSLETTER No. 495**

**February 14, 2014**

**General Meeting for February:** The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 22nd 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 February: **Please join us as Jason Kirby, former BGS President and current archivist at the Archives and Rare Book Room (Birmingham Botanical Gardens), presents "From Kitchen Gardens to Flora of the Civil War."** This presentation covers the different types of southern historic gardens with a focus on kitchen gardens during the Civil War time period. Jason will discuss flora from herbs to common cure-alls, to sweet herbs for hearth and health, to teas and vinegars. See how our ancestors did back in the old days! Founded in 2008, the Archives and Rare Book Room is located in The Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on the first floor of the Garden Center. The collection is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9-4 p.m. and on weekends by appointment-only. The Archives and Rare Book Room consist of materials generated by Friends of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the City of Birmingham, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, various plant groups, garden clubs and societies. The collection consists of scrapbooks, rare books, works progress administration (WPA) records, seed catalogs, garden manuals, manuscripts, Japanese tea ceremony items, plant fossils, Japanese woodblock prints, photographs, minute books, post cards, botanical prints, water color paintings, thesis papers, maps, personal herbarium (plant press book), and garden and botanical ephemera. Please join us!

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### **Upcoming Genealogical & Historical Events**

On March 15, 2014, 10-5, at the LDS Church, 2780 Altadena Rd, Birmingham AL 35243, will be the **Semi-Annual Family History Fair**. The theme is "Putting Family in Family History." There will be live presentations by local experts and sessions broadcast from the Roots Tech Conference in Salt Lake City. There is no cost for anything, but please register so that we will have seating and lunch for everyone. Register online at <http://bafhf2014.wix.com/fair>.

**AGS Spring 2014 Seminar!** On April 5, 2014, at the Beeson Business Building/Brock Forum Auditorium - Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama! The AGS Spring 2014 Seminar is entitled **GENETICS, ETHICS & ANTEBELLUM LAW** presented by Judy G. Russell, JD.

Registration begins at 8:20 am! Please visit the AGS website at

<http://algensoc.org/main/seminars.html> for additional information and registration!

### **Research & Genealogical Tips: Land Patents VS Land Warrants**

Usually a land patent is that legal document that transfers ownership in real property from a governmental agency to an individual. A warrant is a document that indicates a person has qualified for (or purchased) a specific amount of land. The warrant does not always indicate the precise location of the land and the warrant does not usually give title to any specific piece of real estate. The patent does that.

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

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**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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### “Seven Places to find Hospital Records”

**Robin Foster, National Genealogy Examiner**

**12 February 2014**

You may have discovered on a death certificate or through other documentation that your ancestor died in the hospital. Do you want to know if any hospital records exist? Do not be surprised if these records cannot be accessed without a court order if they are less than 50 or in some cases, 75 years old. Your first challenge would be to determine where they are housed which will vary by locality. Check out the examples of places below where you may find hospital records:

**Hospital** – Study the history of the hospital.

**State archives** – The Vermont State Archives and Records Administration has provided access to the **Vermont State Hospital** records from 1891 to 1969 as cited in “*Vermont State Archives Opens State Hospital Records.*” Record types include name, admission date, age, class of patient, town of origin, remarks, date of discharge, and more.

**Courthouse** – According to the advice given by Juliana Smith in “*Searching for Hospital Records,*” another great place to search for guardianship or probate records that were created when an ancestor became institutionalized as a patient.

**City hall** – **The City Archives of Philadelphia** is the source to go to for access to records of the Alms House and its successor as well as Philadelphia General Hospital from 1751 to the 1940’s

**Historical societies** – Minnesota Historical Society has **hospital records** most commonly used for researching family history.

**University libraries** – Hospital records are one of the unofficial vital records included in the collection of vital records at **Parkside Library** on the campus of University of Wisconsin.

**Family History Library Catalog** – If you perform a keyword search for “**hospital**” in the catalog, you will retrieve over 2,300 results. Use the filter on the left sidebar to further narrow your results.