



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. 483

January 18, 2013

General Meeting for January: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 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. **DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 1:30!**

The program for January: Please join us as **Jim Bagget**, Birmingham Public Library Archives Department Head will present **Mundane and McCabre: 19th Century Letters & Diaries**. From matters of love, death and politics to the price of shoes, nineteenth century Alabamians recorded their experiences in letters and diaries. This talk explores life in the 1800s through personal writings now preserved in the Birmingham Public Library Archives. Jim Baggett is Head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and Archivist for the City of Birmingham. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists and Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Jim has lectured throughout the U.S. and Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, National Public Radio and CSPAN. He has authored or edited five books on Birmingham and Alabama history, including *A Woman of the Town: Louise Wooster*, *Birmingham's Magdalene* and *Alabama Illustrated: Engravings from 19th Century Newspapers*. Jim has written more than fifty articles on archival preservation and Alabama history for *Alabama Librarian* magazine, *Alabama Heritage*, *Birmingham* magazine and other publications.

Research & Genealogical Tips: Did It Really Happen There?

When you cannot find a record in the expected location, ask yourself if you are really certain the event took place in that spot. Do you have good information to cause you to believe that or are you operating under a hunch? That hunch could be wrong. Did a couple go a distance from home to elope? Did your great-grandparents live in another state for a year and that's where one child was born? Was great-grandma living with a daughter out of state when she died? The event may not have taken place where you think it did--especially if it happened one hundred years before you were born.

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The Birmingham Iron Age, 23 February 1882: Our community was excited last week by the report of a man missing named Billy Poe. After a search of five days he was found near Mr. J. A. McClintock's on Friday evening of last week. Esquire Fancher held an inquest on the body. Mr. Poe had fallen of a bluff of rocks fifty feet high, on rocks below and his body was badly mangled. He and one Mr. Bailey on the Friday before went to Brock's Gap and remained there till Saturday, drinking. After they had gone, about half an hour Mr. Bailey returned to Brock's to get more whiskey but did not return that night to hunt for his friend. It is believed that Poe suicided by jumping off the bluff as he was tracked to the bluff and no other track with him. It is said that on one other occasion he had made an effort to kill himself and was only deterred by the fear of being buried and that he sought this out of the way place to prevent being buried.

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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Selected Resources for Alabama Counties: A Subject Guide

The staff of the Southern History Department is proud to unveil a project that's been one year in the making. Our new subject guide, Selected Resources for Alabama Counties, is now almost complete. Each of Alabama's 67 counties is represented with its own page and listing of library resources. The goal of this project was to create a user-friendly way for patrons and staff to see at a glance what books and records are available in the library for each individual county. Each county is divided into the following categories: Cemeteries and Church Histories; Census Records; City, County, and Family Histories; Court Records; Death Records and Obituaries; Land Records; Maps; Marriage Records; Military History and Records; Newspaper Abstracts; and Periodicals. For each category a list of titles is given with links to the library's online catalog. Having all of the counties and their resources listed in one place is helpful to anyone who is planning a research trip. Since most genealogy sources are location specific, a researcher who is considering a visit can know in advance what we have to offer for a particular county. While not meant to be comprehensive, each county guide is meant to give patrons easy access to most used county records and histories.

http://www.bplonline.org/virtual/subjects/Default.aspx?s_page=117

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Surety

A surety is one serves as a guarantor on bond or other obligation such as a debt. If the person signing the bond performs their obligation, the surety does not have to "do anything." If the person pays their debt, the surety does not have to pay it. If the person signing the bond does not perform as indicated on the bond, the surety is at financial or legal risk. If the person who is supposed to pay the debt does not pay, the surety becomes obligated.

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