



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

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

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

NEWSLETTER No. 489

July 17, 2013

General Meeting for July: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 27th 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 July: On Saturday, July 27, **Gene Gravlee**, the Walker County Representative for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance will present a program on **Cemetery Preservation**. Gene Gravlee is retired both from the Alabama Department of Public Safety (at the rank of Sergeant) and from the Air Force Reserve Master Sergeant (First Sergeant) with over 28 years of service. He was employed full time as chief investigator for a large law firm in Jasper, Alabama. Gene has published three county cemetery maps of Walker, Winston and Lamar counties while working as a volunteer for Craig Remington at the University of Alabama, over fifty years conducting family research. He is a member of the SAR, MOSB, Alabama Genealogical Society, Walker Genealogical and other organizations. **Please join us for the July meeting!**

CEMETERY RESEARCH TIPS

CEMETERY RESEARCH contributed George E. Wolf Jr./2010

<https://sites.google.com/site/cemeteriesofharriscotexas/home/cemetery-research-tips>

1. Maps are a great source. Old and new work well together. You can compare the two.
2. Death certificates are wonderful to use. You can see if the cemetery is going by another name.
3. Census records work great by putting groups or families names from a certain cemetery together., 4. Community histories., 5. Genealogy or family histories., 6. County Tax Block Books. 7. Findagrave.com, 8. Cemetery websites.

Searching For A Cemetery

1. Depending on where you live, fall and winter is best for searching for cemeteries. No heat, no snakes, no mosquitos, low vegetation making it easier to find the tombstones and no people around.
2. Don't go alone. If you do let someone know where you are going. There is more to fear from the living than the dead.
3. If it is on private property be sure to get permission and keep all gates closed.
4. Its best to go on a clouded day, the sun sometimes makes the tombstone hard to read in direct sunlight.
5. Look for large old trees, oaks and cedars. Cedar trees were put at the head of a grave when there was no headstone. Look for lilies and other flowering plants that would not normally grow there.
6. Indentions in the ground where the coffin has fallen in. Old metal funeral markers. Fieldstones or large stones. Linch-gates, broken gravestones. Grave goods put on a grave, toys, bottles, shells.
7. Old fence lines, fence post and barb-wire.
8. Dense woods and over grown lots.

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



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Edward Tatum (born 1740-1750 in Virginia; died January 1835 in Mt Pinson) was a First Lieutenant in the American Revolutionary War and a pioneer settler of Jefferson County. Tatum married the former Martha Daniel before 1774 and had nine children over the next 18 years. He took his oath of allegiance to the United States in 1777 and was appointed an officer in the Henry County Militia. He saw action in 1781 at the Battles of Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs, and Yorktown. In gratitude for his service to the nation, Tatum was granted 656 acres of Virginia land in December 1783. Even so, he moved southward with his family before 1800, spending time in South Carolina, Georgia and Lincoln County, Tennessee, where he was elected coroner in 1812. In 1819 he joined family members already living in the McCalla area, and established a home on Five Mile Creek between Cox Spring Branch and Moore's Brook. In 1822 he purchased land two miles northeast of Mt Pinson, which he distributed to his grandchildren. In 1826 he served as a Justice of the Peace and farmed the land with the help of a handful of slaves. Late in life, Tatum moved to Pinson to be closer to his growing family and died there in January 1835. He is buried in a private cemetery near his homestead between Pinson and Palmerdale. The William Speer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided a grave marker on April 27, 1977. Members of the Pinson Historical Society assisted in the restoration of the damaged grave in 2013. A new marker from the Sons of the American Revolution was dedicated in June of that year.

http://bhamwiki.com/w/Edward_Tatum

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Funeral Home Records

The records maintained by a funeral home are private business records--not public records.

Funeral homes do not "have" to allow you to see their old records. Some do as a public service and because it generates goodwill in the community. A few even charge. But a funeral home is under no obligation to let you have access to any materials they retained after your relative's funeral--no matter what it cost.

(c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"

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