



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

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www.birminghamgenealogy.org

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

NEWSLETTER No. 488

June 14, 2013

General Meeting for June: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 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.

DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 1:30!

The program for June: On Saturday, June 22, local writer Niki Sepsas will be presenting a slide show based on his book *Hellenic Heartbeat in the Deep South: A History of the Greek Community in Birmingham, Alabama*. The book chronicles the founding of the Greek church in Birmingham in 1907 and its growth over the past century into Cathedral status. The story also focuses on the Greek immigrants who arrived on these shores more than a century ago possessing little more than their dreams of a better life and left us their legacy of faith and an abiding love of their *patrida*, their homeland. In addition, the book and show contain numerous images and stories on the founding and growth of many of the best known restaurants in the Birmingham area today – The Bright Star, Niki's West, Fish Market, John's, Fife's, Costa's Mediterranean Restaurant, Nabeel's, Smokehouse Restaurant, etc. – many of which are still owned and operated by the children and grandchildren of those early immigrants and family members who followed them. The work was a particular labor of love for Niki as his grandparents were among the earliest immigrants from Greece to settle in Birmingham. Father Paul Costopoulos, the Dean of the Birmingham cathedral, reviewed the book and wrote: "*Niki successfully captures the unique history of the Greeks in Birmingham. It is a story that is both fresh and engaging.*" **Hope to see you at the June meeting!**

Research & Genealogical Tips: At What Stage?

When working on your "brick wall" ancestor, have you given serious thought to what stage of life they were in when they become your "brick wall?" Were they young and striking out on their own with no responsibilities? Had all their children grown up and left home moving several states away? Or did all their adult children live nearby? Were they a newlywed? Were they the only child living near aging parents? Your relative did not live in a vacuum and, while people do occasionally "run off and never come back," most people behave relatively reasonably. Your disappearing ancestor may simply have left no records behind of certain periods in his life.

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

QUERY: Looking for information (and pictures!) on the BRYAN family: David BRYAN b 1801, Virginia; m Margaret (?) abt 1848. Had 4 children: Catherine, Eliza, Mary and Mackness. Mackness BRYAN m Mattie May Cosper (my g-g aunt) abt 1897 in Alabama. Rev David BRYAN started First Presbyterian Church in Gadsden, AL. Mack & Mattie May had dry goods store in Covington, AL. Am looking for pictures of the family. Also interested in finding maiden name for David's wife Margaret. Especially interested in Mackness & Mattie May's children: David, Thaddeus, Jerry, Grace & Raeburn. Please contact Jackie Cosper Holloway at jdholloway@bellsouth.net or write me at 86 Greenland Drive, McDonough, GA 30253. Also researching the Cosper and Noland families.

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



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Mystery Solved: ‘Missing’ County Records Returned 60 Years After They Disappeared

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (WHNT) — After 60 years of mystery thousands of pages of Madison County historic documents are back in the hands of county record keepers thanks to a local family. Three descendants of James William Bragg Sr. delivered the Madison County Records Center the first 8 boxes of documents that “disappeared” from the courthouse in the 1950s. Benjamin Bragg says there are about 20 boxes in his family’s climate controlled storage facility. According to family, James William Bragg Sr. took the records and carefully preserved them for years. He was known as a very serious historian, developing a master’s thesis when he began taking records home for further study, with the probate judge’s permission in the 1950s, but he unexpectedly passed away before returning everything to the courts. After his death the family maintained the tradition of keeping the records safe. Record keepers say the discovery includes “long-lost” court records from the territorial days and even some Civil War era records. “We do strongly suspect that several other families may also have old court records, taken from the courthouse many years ago, and hope they will get those back to us,” historian John Rankin told WHNT News 19. Rankin hopes more families with rich history in Madison County will check their attics and storage sheds in the hopes of finding the rest of the missing documents. If you do have public records contact the Madison County Records Department located on the 3rd floor of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (Main) @ 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801.

The Georgia Enterprise, 14 November 1889

Two men armed with Winchester rifles were seen in the vicinity of Irondale, Ala., eight miles from Birmingham, late Wednesday afternoon. Soon after dark they robbed two citizens half a mile from the town. One of the men robbed reported that one of the highwaymen filled the description of RUBE BURROW, the train robber. RUBE BURROW, the train robber, took a ride on the night express train on the Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham railroad Tuesday night. He was seen and recognized, but no one attempted his capture. He boarded the train, west bound, at a small station in the western part of Alabama, and rode a few miles across the line into Mississippi. He was alone, but carried a large Winchester rifle and two pistols.

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Date, Date, Everywhere A Date

Some documents have several dates on them. Vital records will contain the date of the event, Deeds will contain the date the deed was executed. Wills include the date the will was signed. Some documents contain the date the document was recorded. Wills should contain the date the will was admitted to probate. Deeds may include the date the deed was acknowledged. Each of these dates are a clue in the chronology of the document.

Always determine the reason for any date listed on a document--all of them.

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