



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. 496

March 14, 2014

General Meeting for March: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 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 March: Please join us as Suzanna Rawlins, current President of the Birmingham Genealogical Society, will give us a presentation on **Legacy Stories** - a cool way for us to store our genealogy research online. Legacy Stories was launched in 2011 as a new and innovative way for genealogists and family historians to gather family history and heritage information and preserve it for future generations. There are no programs to download - this is totally done on line. This website leverages the social networking capabilities of Facebook in a safe and secure environment. It is a GREAT way to organize and store genealogical research, share information with whomever YOU choose to share it with and hopefully empower you to fill in those genealogical blanks by allowing other family members to share your research and add comments of their own. Another great tool - Talking Photos! The system easily lets you add your voice to photos you have uploaded. What a treasure for you to share with future generations - they will be able to hear your voice as you talk about the photos.... The URL for the site is www.leaveyourlegacy.org. Join us for a brand new approach to sharing genealogical information!

Don't forget the **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: There Never Was A Stone

If you cannot find a tombstone for your ancestor in that cemetery where you know they are buried, ask yourself how certain you are of their burial in that cemetery. Then if you are absolutely positive the ancestor was buried there, consider:

There may never have been a stone for financial or other reasons

There may have only been a wooden marker which has since deteriorated.

Not everyone has a tombstone.

© Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"

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



NOTICE REGARDING 2014 DUES - IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2014, PLEASE DO SO BY MARCH 31ST! IF NOT YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE YOU AS A MEMBER! THANK YOU!

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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Query Submitted to BGS: I am trying to locate cause of death for my grandfather, Ernest Lee Self, who died at his home in Selfville, AL in June of 1942. The State of Alabama does not have a death certificate for him. My next thought was to locate the funeral home records. It's possible that Luquire Funeral Home was taken over by John Ridouts, but I don't what time frame that might have happened. Below is the obit published in the Brmingham News. Could you provide some direction on finding information that could help me solve this mystery?

SELF - Ernest Lee Self, age 38, of Selfville, Ala., passed away at the residence Wednesday noon. Survived by the widow, Mrs. Ruby Self; one son, Edgar Lee Self; one daughter, Kathleen Self; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Self; one sister, Mrs. Vallie Walker. Funeral services from Bethlehem Methodist Church, Friday 11 a.m. Interment adjoining cemetery. Active pallbearers, Paul Marsh, Olin Marsh, Grady Keener, Clarence Loggins, Leonard Brown, Theodore Tumlin. Luquire directing. - published in "The Birmingham News" on Thursday, June 4, 1942, page 24

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sandra Champion (please contact her at champions@aepinc.com)

Floods in Birmingham Overflow Streets; Stop Cars; Train Off Track

Montgomery Advertiser, July 8, 1916

(Associated Press) BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 7--The unprecedented rainfall in Birmingham showed no signs of ceasing tonight. At 7:30 o'clock the weather bureau records here showed precipitation of 10.75 inches within the previous 48 hours, and slightly over seven inches of this was in the twenty-four hours ending tonight. All railroad service to the south is in bad shape. Overflows on the Queen and Crescent, Southern and Louisville and Nashville have caused delays and in several cases the annulment of trains. In Birmingham the lowlands along Valley Creek and Village Creek are flooded and many negro residents were taken from their houses in boats. At East Birmingham it was estimated that Valley Creek was nearly a mile and a half wide. Shades Creek across the mountain overflowed making it necessary to cut a spillway at Edgewood Lake to save the dam. Tidewater electric cars were unable to run at all today because of overflowed tracks at various points all the way from East Lake to Pratt City.

Avondale and Woodlawn also suffered because there was no car service. On the North Highlands lines the cars had to stop at the creek, which was several blocks away, and early tonight passengers were hauled across the overflowed bridge in wagons. A Seaboard Air Line train left the track in Avondale and the passengers had to be brought to the city in taxicabs. Boyles, a suburb, has been cut off all day. The only death reported was that of Jim Coleman who was drowned while riding on an improvised raft near Ensley. Birmingham as an inland town resorted to all sorts of methods to handled (handle?) the floods this afternoon. Fire companies were called out. Motor boats commanddeered wherever they could be found and a motor fire truck was sent out with a load of canoes to assist. Fire engines were pressed into service to pump out basements. The subway through the station was flooded because of the overtaxed sewers. Corn fields below Bessemer were reported under eight feet of water. Some of the largest Industrial plants in the district had to shut down.