



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded April 15, 1959

www.birminghamgenealogy.org

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

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

General Meeting for March: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, March 19th** on the second floor of the Main Birmingham Public Library (in the Story Castle). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

Please join us on Saturday, March 19th (2:00 pm) for “How to organize your research files, both paper and electronic.” BGS members Patricia Crim-Dietlein, Gary Gerlach, Patrick Henry and Suzanna Rawlins will discuss both electronic and non-electronic methods and tools for effective and efficient organizational of genealogy records, including example directory structures, file name examples, suggestions for auxiliary programs and backups (how often and where to store). Please join us for this informative program!

PLEASE NOTE: Last reminder for 2016 Dues! Current annual dues are \$20.00/individual or \$25.00/family payable to the Birmingham Genealogical Society. Please mail to: The Birmingham Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2432, Birmingham AL 35201

A minor could have had several guardians during their minority if one or both of their parents were deceased. Guardians generally fall into two categories: Guardian of the person—watched over the child and the child typically lived with them. Parents were often “guardians of the person,” and were sometimes referred to as “natural guardians.” Guardian of the estate—watched over the child’s inheritance. These guardians may have been the same person, may have been relatives, and may have changed during the child’s minority. Or not—it depends upon the situation. There is also the possibility that a guardian ad litem was appointed for a minor. A guardian ad litem was usually appointed for a child when that child was somehow involved in legal action and did not have a guardian of their own (such as if their parent’s estate was being sued and a guardian had never been appointed for the child) . This guardian was actually serving as the child’s “lawyer” and was not a guardian of the child’s person or estate.

Courthouse record copies of land deeds, wills, and similar documents can easily contain the occasional error. This is particularly true from items recorded in the days when these copies were handwritten by a clerk. Sometimes the error is of little consequence and sometimes it is. The record copy of this 1812 will from Harford County, Maryland, leaves out the last name of the man to whom the testator has sold some property. Record copies are usually considered to be the legal equivalent of the original document. That does not mean they are error-free.

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

The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor



Pioneer Trails Newsletter

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR PAPER FILES

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sdfpgs/archive/organizefiles.pdf>

Genealogy is fun when you can find things, but it can be frustrating when you can't. Therefore, you need a simple system for organizing papers so that you can quickly find them again. Not everything you know about your families may come from facts written down on paper. You may have recordings on audio or video tape that includes genealogical information. If so, you need to transcribe the genealogy onto paper and include that paper sheet in your file. Begin thinking of your files as a "database". This is a paper database of facts about your ancestors. The goal should be to have every fact you have ever found on your ancestors in one place. If you have facts in your memory that have never been written down, now is the time to do that. The system needs to be:

- Simple to set up,
- Flexible,
- Simple to maintain,
- Inexpensive,
- Consistent,
- Safe and understandable for future generations.

Different ways to organize your papers:

- Filing Cabinet & File Folders - File folders, probably the most popular organizational tool for genealogists, are inexpensive, very portable, and easily hold papers of different shapes and sizes. File folders make it easy to consult documents, but you have to be diligent about making sure the paper is put back where it came from. Once you've generated a lot of paper, however, the file folder system is the most flexible and expandable.
- Binders - If you're someone who really likes to keep things together in one place, then organizing your printed genealogy data into binders may be a good option for you. This method standardizes your genealogical records into a regular size paper format. Documents that you don't wish to three-hole punch can be added in clear sleeves. Binders are portable and don't require a filing cabinet, however, if you do a lot of genealogical research you may find that binders eventually become too cumbersome on their own.
- Computer Disks, CDs, & DVDs - Transcribing or scanning genealogical documents into the computer can save quite a bit of space and computerized organizational systems can greatly speed up tedious tasks such as sorting and cross-referencing. But, will your descendants 100 or more years from now have a computer that can read them? If your files don't go to someone who protects and maintains them, they will be of little use. If you choose to use your computer as your primary organizational system, consider also making and preserving copies or printouts of important documents.

Once you get started organizing your genealogical clutter, you'll probably find that a combination of storage methods works best. It is important to keep in mind that organization is and always will be a work in progress.

Commonly used genealogical filing systems include:

- By Surname, Individual - All papers for an individual are filed in a folder alphabetically.
- By Couple or Family - All papers related to a husband and wife or family unit are filed together.
- By Family Line - All papers related to a specific family line are filed together. Many genealogists begin by starting with four such ancestral lines - one for each of their grandparents.
- By Event - All papers related to a specific event type (i.e. birth, marriage, census, etc.) are filed together.

SETTING UP THE FAMILY LINE COLOR CODE FILING SYSTEM

This system sets up file folders for the families on your pedigree lines. Pedigree charts are divided into 4 colors, based on the lines of your 4 grandparents. Dividing your pedigree by color helps make it clear which line a family belongs to. For each family on your pedigree, a family file folder holds documents and a printed copy of that family's group record.

1. Print a copy of your own 5-generation pedigree chart, starting with yourself as # 1. You are the first generation; your 16 great-great grandparents are the 5th generation. Color-code the lines as follows:

- BLUE: Circle all families who are ancestors of your father's father in blue.
- GREEN: Circle all families who are ancestors of your father's mother in green.
- RED: Circle all families who are ancestors of your mother's father in red.
- YELLOW: Circle all families who are ancestors of your mother's mother in yellow.

2. At the front of your file box put a complete set of your family pedigree charts. Label the tab of a standard green hanging file folder "Pedigree Charts." Print a complete set of all your pedigree charts, for all lines. Start with

Pioneer Trails Newsletter

yourself. If your computer program allows you to also print an index of your pedigree names, include that in the file folder with the pedigree charts.

3. Set up Holding Files to store items temporarily. Genealogists acquire many documents, notes, e-mails, and letters that need to be analyzed, used, and filed. But it isn't always possible to file items immediately after finding new information. Set up Holding Files for storing information that pertains to a surname until you can analyze, use, and file these items. Place the Holding File right behind the surname hanging file with the pedigree charts, and before the family files. Do this for any surname where you have many documents and see the need. When you have a large number of documents for a surname, it helps to create two Holding Files for that surname. Set up one folder as a Temporary Holding File, and the other for a Permanent Holding File to store documents that have more than one family's information in them. Be sure to go back and use the documents stored in the Holding Files!

Miscellaneous items you can include in a family folder:

1. The family group record of the family. If there was more than one marriage, make a separate folder with a family group record for each other marriage.
2. Documents you have already gathered, which belong with this family.
3. Include all documents from the time of a couple's marriage. Documents that pertain to events prior to their marriage can be filed in the folders of their parents, such as birth certificates and baptism certificates.

Add the following items to a family folder, as you need or want them:

1. To Do List - a list of questions about this family which you want to find answers for
2. Research Log - for keeping a record of sources you look at about this family
3. Timeline - for a chronology of this family's life events
4. Maps pertaining to where this family lived
5. Research notes taken
6. New documents found
7. Family group records for children, as parents with their own children, who are not the direct-line child. Note that they are not a part of the alphabetical filing system, but are filed right behind their parents.

Pros and Cons

Each of these systems has pros and cons, and it is up to the individual researcher to decide which of the cons is unacceptable. In each case you will find that you have overlap in your records. In many cases, if it is just a single page, another copy is the best way to handle it. If it is extensive, such as a probate file or a detailed family history, then you will probably just want to put a page in the other folder directing you to see the folder in which you did file the pages. You may find after reading more about these different systems that you like a little bit of each one and you will go off and create your own system. That is fine. The important point is to make sure that whatever system you do go with is one that you will use. If you don't stick with the system then you are no better off than you were before you organized your records.

Final word about an organizational system: When setting up a system, you might want to use parts of one or more systems, or totally create your own. Remember, when setting up your system, it is YOUR system. Whatever you will use and understand is the best system for you.



Pioneer Trails Newsletter

Jefferson County, Alabama Marriages to 1825 Transcribed and Contributed by Marcella Davis To be continued in next newsletter

Groom	Bride	Date	County
Coker, Loving	Lawley, Martha	2 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Coleman, Matthew W.	Hunt, Elizabeth	20 Jan 1822	Jefferson
Combs, John J.	Staggs, Sally	21 Nov 1825	Jefferson
Condry, Isaac	McWilliams, Polly	10 Jun 1819	Jefferson
Cook, Peter	Brown, Minerva	22 Mar 1824	Jefferson
Cooper, John	Taylor, Lucy	9 May 1822	Jefferson
Cooper, Nathaniel	Weems, Fanny	17 Jul 1820	Jefferson
Cornelius, Champion	Baley, Jane	6 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Cornelius, William	Robins, Bethia	8 Oct 1821	Jefferson
Covington, Thomas C.	Deaton, Elizabeth	17 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Cowden, Josiah	Montgomery, Elizabeth	19 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Cozby, James Jr.	Felton, Rachel	21 Mar 1824	Jefferson
Crawford, Robert	Brandon, Eleanor	27 Jul 1818	Jefferson
Crawford, Samuel	Riley, Elizabeth	20 Sep 1821	Jefferson
Crump, John Jr.	Ayres, Anna	15 Sep 1822	Jefferson
Cude, William	Long, Eleanor	13 Aug 1821	Jefferson
Cunias, Tarleton	Nicholas, Katharine	16 May 1822	Jefferson
Cunningham, Jesse	Hewitt, Elizabeth	1 Jul 1823	Jefferson
Cunningham, John	Davis, Patsey	4 Feb 1812	Jefferson
Cunningham, Moses C.	Hair, Delphia	4 May 1823	Jefferson
Curtis, James	Hide, Polly Ann	11 Jun 1823	Jefferson
Daily, George	Ratliff, Barbary	30 Dec 1818	Jefferson
Daniel, Asa	Long, Katherine	16 Jan 1823	Jefferson
Davenport, George	Weems, Polly	12 Nov 1821	Jefferson
Davis, Calvert	Bevill, Sarah	10 Nov 1821	Jefferson
Davis, Matthew	Lindsey, Jane	31 Jan 1822	Jefferson
Davis, William	Peyton, Minty	30 Oct 1823	Jefferson
Dean, Samuel	Edmondson, Parthenia	10 Jan 1822	Jefferson
Dean, Thomas	Jones, Sally	18 Feb 1819	Jefferson
Deaton, Thomas	Williams, Elizabeth	22 Dec 1824	Jefferson
Deavors, Christopher	Spradling, Polly	24 May 1822	Jefferson
Deloney, William	Fuller, Susannah	6 Aug 1821	Jefferson
Deweese, Abner C.	Coker, Frances	3 Feb 1823	Jefferson
Dickey, Elijah	Armstrong, Lucinda	13 Sep 1825	Jefferson
Dicky, John	Vincent, Sophy	28 Jul 1820	Jefferson
Doxey, John	Sanford, Rachel Foster	6 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Draper, Colman	Jones, Aninias	27 Sep 1821	Jefferson
Draper, John B.	Ayres, Huldy	6 Jun 1821	Jefferson
Dunlap, Samuel	Bond, Martha	23 Jul 1825	Jefferson
Dunn, James Fowler,	Elizabeth	11 Mar 1819	Jefferson
Duvall, Frederick	Wyatt, Frances	6 Sep 1821	Jefferson

Pioneer Trails Newsletter

Duvall, John	Wyatt, Cynthia	22 Oct 1825	Jefferson
Dyer, James	Daniel, Nancy	6 Jun 1825	Jefferson
Easters, Andrew	Hendon, Margaret	17 Sep 1820	Jefferson
Ellard, Aaron	Daniel, Polly	6 Mar 1821	Jefferson
Elliott, John H.	Brown, Esther	22 Dec 1825	Jefferson
English, John	Nabors, Jane	23 Dec 1824	Jefferson
Fant, Thomas	James, Elizabeth	11 Jan 1824	Jefferson
Ferguson, Anderson	Goode, Prudence	5 May 1820	Jefferson
Ferguson, Henry	Potter, Nancy	29 May 1821	Jefferson
Ferguson, John H.	Potter, Sarah	4 Apr 1823	Jefferson
Findley, Joseph R.	Byars, Agnes	19 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Flanagan, Hiram	Graham, Ludia	5 Feb 1822	Jefferson
Follice, William	Dickerson, Charity	10 Sep 1818	Jefferson
Forbis, William	Snow, Lucy	26 Feb 1823	Jefferson
Francis, Coleman	Barry, Eliza	17 Apr 1823	Jefferson
Franklin, David	Lindsey, Mary	11 Jan 1821	Jefferson
Frederick, Lewis	Johnson, Ruah	21 Mar 1822	Jefferson
Freeland, Isaac	Richmond, Sally	16 Mar 1822	Jefferson
Fretwell, William	Henson, Nancy	16 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Fry, Philip	Davis, Polly	7 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Fry, Samuel	Blythe, Nancy	9 Sep 1819	Jefferson
Fulton, Robert	Snodgrass, Sally	8 Oct 1819	Jefferson
Garrison, David	Lawler, Sally	11 Jan 1824	Jefferson
Gassaway, James	West, Mary	16 Sep 1824	Jefferson
Gee, William J.	Findley, Agnes	22 Apr 1824	Jefferson
Gillian, Major M.	Grimmett, Polly	4 Jan 1819	Jefferson
Ginn, Bryan	Mars, Elizabeth	24 May 1821	Jefferson
Glaize, Daniel	Carmichael, Eleanor	14 Jul 1824	Jefferson
Glaize, Thomas	Larrimore, Polly	3 Jan 1824	Jefferson
Goode, Hezekiah	Lee, Elizabeth	16 Nov 1822	Jefferson
Goodwin, Robert	Brown, Sally	28 Apr 1825	Jefferson
Gotcher, Henry	Wildman, Polly	30 Jul 1818	Jefferson
Gowen, James	Woods, Mary Ann	14 Dec 1823	Jefferson
Goyne, Harrison W.	Crawford, Elizabeth	8 Nov 1823	Jefferson
Gragg, Burrell	Jacks, Sabary	4 Nov 1824	Jefferson
Graham, Joshua	Moore, Polly	7 Feb 1824	Jefferson
Graham, Ransom	Flannegan, Dovey	12 Feb 1824	Jefferson
Graham, William	Staggs, Rebecca	30 Jan 1820	Jefferson
Graves, _____ Dr.	Alred, Sally	1 Mar 1819	Jefferson
Gray, John	Davis, Lucretia	23 Dec 1819	Jefferson
Gray, William	Watts, Martha	5 Aug 1819	Jefferson
Greer, Andrew	Goode, Maranda	30 Jan 1820	Jefferson
Grimmett, Abraham	Holt, Elizabeth	13 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Guthree, Samuel	Mathers, Margaret	4 Nov 1821	Jefferson
Halbert, Percival	Owen, Jane	25 Jul 1822	Jefferson
Hall, Glover	Crump, Eruba	20 Jul 1824	Jefferson
Hall, Samuel W.	Hardyman, Susan	24 Jan 1824	Jefferson

Pioneer Trails Newsletter

Hall, William	French, Sarah	14 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Haney, James	Miller, Elizabeth	4 Nov 1819	Jefferson
Harbin, Jesse	Cureton, Sarah	17 Dec 1818	Jefferson
Harden, Jeremiah	Click, Elizabeth	3 Jan 1821	Jefferson
Harkins, Daniel	McCracken, Malinda	16 Oct 1821	Jefferson
Harmon, Joel	Little, Sally	18 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Harmon, Valentine	McCarter, Nancy	17 Feb 1820	Jefferson
Harris, Mark M.	Riley, Nancy	5 May 1825	Jefferson
Harris, Thomas H.	Brooks, Louisa	25 Oct 1823	Jefferson
Harrison, Thomas	Prater, Parmelia	20 Feb 1825	Jefferson
Hart, Velina	Stephens, Elizabeth	8 Aug 1821	Jefferson
Harwood, Randolph	Reed, Eunity	12 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Henderson, Marcus C. Rev.	Harrison, Susan L.	10 Mar 1825	Jefferson
Hickinbottom, Wm W.	Little, Nancy	7 Mar 1822	Jefferson
Hickman, Jesse H.	Pullen, Clarissa	29 Jan 1822	Jefferson
Hill, John	Click, Sarah	11 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Hinton, Zachariah	Russell, Patsy	20 Jul 1820	Jefferson
Hobbs, Lewis	Whittington, Nancy	7 Apr 1821	Jefferson
Hodges, Stephen	Snow, Polly	13 Aug 1820	Jefferson
Hodgson, Nathaniel	Laney, Katharine	1 Dec 1823	Jefferson
Holcombe, Darius J.	Barger, Rebecca	31 Jul 1825	Jefferson
Hooker, John	Loveless, Rachel	2 Jan 1825	Jefferson
Hooper, Taliaferro	Carter, Elizabeth	17 Aug 1823	Jefferson
Hopper, John	Self, Mary	8 Sep 1821	Jefferson
Horn, John	Boyd, Elizabeth	18 Dec 1821	Jefferson
Horn, William	Horn, Kitty	5 May 1822	Jefferson
Hudson, Elijah	Robertson, Nancy	2 Jul 1819	Jefferson
Hudson, William H. Jr.	Petty, Nancy	1 Nov 1821	Jefferson
Hullum, Duke W. Jr.	Brittain, Susan A.	15 Sep 1825	Jefferson
Humber, Charles C.	Hammon, Lettice	17 Sep 1818	Jefferson
Hunt, William	Holcombe, Terisa	4 Jun 1825	Jefferson
Isaacs, Elijah	Bagley, Milly	8 Nov 1821	Jefferson

2016 Officers & Directors

President: Suzanna Rawlins - shareyourstory@earthlink.net	Director: Barb Adams
1 st VP (Programs): Scott Martin- bevel67@aol.com	Director: Ann Gilbert
2 nd VP (Membership): Patricia Crim Dietlein - pdietlein@aol.com	Director: Barb Tillery
Treasurer: Gary Gerlach - ggerlach@charter.net	Director:
Recording Secretary: Patrick Henry - pjhenry@mindspring.com	Director:
Corresponding Secretary: Suzanna Rawlins	Director:
Chaplain: Earl Massey - CMassey007@aol.com	
Historian: Carl Dykes - cwdykes@uab.edu	
Curator: Carl Dykes - cwdykes@uab.edu	
Parliamentarian: Gary Gerlach - ggerlach@charter.net	
Website/Social Media: Suzanna Rawlins & Patrick Henry & Melissa Hogan	
Publicity: Melissa Hogan - genealogistinal@yahoo.com	
