



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

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May 15, 2014

General Meeting for May: Put on your walking shoes because it's time for the Annual BGS Walking Tour! The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at **1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17th at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens!** Please note that there will not be a Board of Directors meeting.

The program for May: Please join us as Jason Kirby, former BGS President and current archivist at the Archives and Rare Book Room (Birmingham Botanical Gardens), serves as our guide for a walking tour of the **Birmingham Botanical Gardens!** The **Birmingham Botanical Gardens** is 67.5-acre botanical gardens located adjacent to Lane Park at the southern foot of Red Mountain in Birmingham, Alabama. The gardens are home to over 12,000 different types of plants, 25 unique gardens, more than 30 works of original outdoor sculpture, and several miles of walking paths. With more than 350,000 annual visitors, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens qualify as one of Alabama's top free-admittance tourist attractions. The Birmingham Botanical Gardens began as an idea prior to 1960. The Birmingham mayor of that time, James W. Morgan, led an effort to establish the gardens on a 69-acre portion of unused city property east of the Birmingham Zoo on the side of Red Mountain. The garden officially opened in 1963. The Birmingham Botanical Society, now known as the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, was established in 1964 with a mission of helping the city to support and improve the gardens. For directions please visit the official website at <http://www.bbgardens.org/index2.php>

Research & Genealogical Tips: Are you Using Onomastic Evidence?

Sometimes genealogists use the fact that families use similar first names as "evidence" the families are related. Relationships between families suggested by shared first names should be validated with other records and onomastice information should be used as a clue. Just because a four syllable word is used to describe evidence does not mean it's any more accurate.

When Is a Close Name Close Enough?

There is no hard and fast answer to when a name is "close enough" to be your ancestor. The variant spelling should sound like your actual ancestor's last name and differences in vowels usually are not as significant as one might think, depending upon how your ancestor pronounced his name. Use other clues to determine if the "close enough" person is your ancestor. Is he:

In the right location? Acting in a way that is consistent with your ancestor? Of a close enough age to be your ancestor? Interacting with known associates of your ancestors? Even answering all these questions with a "yes" is no guarantee, but it is a good start towards making certain that "close enough" name is really "close enough."

© 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



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The Christian Index, 11 July 1872

When a good man dies it seems proper that some suitable mention should be made of his life and works. In obedience to this thought, I will notice, briefly, the record of the Rev. Allen McDonald, who was born in South Carolina, in November, 1791, and died at his residence, in Jefferson County, Ala., May 15th, 1872--aged 81 years. While he was a young man he went to Tennessee, where he lived a few years; and while there the Indian war broke out. He was a young man and joined the army, and served his country under Jackson--was in that campaign all through what is now known as Talladega County, Ala. In 1814 he was married to a Miss Phoebe Ray, and indeed, she was an "helpmeet for him." They soon came to Alabama, and settled in Jefferson County; and soon afterward, he attached himself to the Hebron church of said county. It was soon seen that the Lord had a work for him to do, and so he was licensed to exercise his gifts. The country was new, many persons coming in all eager for money, and hence in this new field of labor, there was a vast amount of work for him to do. God had given him a sound and healthful body, great zeal, strong lungs, and well did he use all his powers for God's glory. He was never regarded as a very strong man in doctrine, (yet, "sound to the core,) but he was what was for better, a "good man," "known and read of all men." In the days of "Camp" and "Protracted" meetings, Bro. McDonald was considered almost an indispensable. When such meetings were appointed, he was always invited, and when he could, always attended. His work was so well understood by all that it was hardly necessary for the committee on devotion to say, "Bro. McDonald will close the exercises." The writer of this sketch has often been with him on those occasions of which he now speaks. After the congregation had been dismissed, and all had retired to rest, some poor, wounded sinner would desire that some one should pray for them, when Bro. McDonald was almost certain to be sent for. How often we have listened to his well-known voice, with all the energy of his soul ascending to God. It may be said of him: He was truly a man of "prayer" and "faith," and for hours would he thus spend his time--sometimes almost all the night would be devoted to praying, singing, instructing and exhorting. Many stars will be in his "crown of rejoicing." Bro. McDonald was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1843, by Byars, Scott and Holcombe. He sustains an irreproachable character. He was one of the few men whom the tongue of slander could not reach--he was "above suspicion." His end was almost like the sainted "Enoch," he was not for God took him. On the day of his death he ate dinner as usual, was cheerful, talking to his family, went and lay down on the bed, and, in five minutes, passed away almost without a struggle. He leaves his aged companion and many relatives to mourn after him. May his mantle fall upon his son. A. J. Walcrop.