



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. 492

October 17, 2013

General Meeting for October: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2013 on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL BGS OCTOBER FAIR AND YOU ARE INVITED!

It's time to plan for your exhibit – some ideas to consider for an exhibit - a family heirloom to show - Grandpa's watch fob? The bullet from g-grandpa's war injury? Got a new DNA chart that is going to solve all your questions? Or even old family photos, clothing worn by an ancestor, family histories, articles owned by an ancestor or articles made by an ancestor. Table or wall space will be provided. Everyone will be asked to provide a brief talk to explain what you have brought.

Please email Mary Taylor at maryalicer@aol.com so that enough table or wall space can be provided.



**Think of the October Fair as a "Show & Tell" for Genealogist!
Ribbons awarded to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners!
Silver bowl awarded to 1st place winner!**

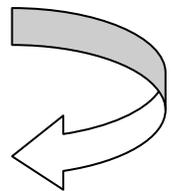
You may begin setting up your display at 1:00 p.m.

~ Members are asked to bring some type of finger food or dessert for refreshments ~

Also, if you do not plan to participate in the fair, your attendance is vital!
We will be presenting the nominations for the 2014 slate of officers!

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE OCTOBER FAIR!

We will also have a used book and magazine sale to benefit the
Birmingham Genealogical Society!



BOO! I am the ghost of unpaid annual dues!

Mail in your 2014 dues today or I will haunt you the rest of the year!

Membership dues are \$15.00/individual or \$20.00/family



2013 Officers & Directors

President: Suzanna Rawlins - shareyourstory@earthlink.net

1st VP (Programs): Mary Taylor – maryalicet@aol.com

2nd VP (Membership): Patricia Crim Dietlein - pdietlein@aol.com

Treasurer: Yvonne Brakefield - ybrakefield@mac.com

Recording Secretary : Jyl Hardy - jylhardy@charter.net

Corresponding Secretary: Jyl Hardy - jylhardy@charter.net

Chaplain: Earl Massey - CMassey007@aol.com

Historian: Carl Dykes – cwdykes@uab.edu

Curator: Yvonne Crumpler - rayscru@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Gary Gerlach – ggerlach@charter.net

Website/Social Media: Melissa Hogan - genealogistinal@yahoo.com

Publicity: A.C. Burttram Jr. – a.burttramjr.@worldnet.att.net

Director: Gail Pugh (2013)

Director: Barbara Smith (2013)

Director: David Hamilton (2014)

Director: Carol Massey (2014)

Director: Scott Hogan (2015)

Director: Scott Martin (2015)

“Nightly Walks with Ghosts in Downtown Birmingham”

29 September 2013, *The Birmingham News*, By Michael Tomberlin | mtomberlin@al.com

Downtown Birmingham is home to favorite haunts but many work in, live in or pass by buildings they may not realize have a haunted past. The Birmingham Ghost Walk shares the Magic City’s haunted history with those who want to know more about it. Is the ghost of a newspaper publisher in the Viva Health Building, the site of the original Tutwiler Hotel? Does the current Tutwiler have the ghost of a little girl haunting two of the rooms? Does the spirit of Col. Tutwiler himself still entertain himself in the hotel that bears his name? Edward Wolfgang Poe believes so – or at least he has heard or read enough about them to share the stories with attendees of this walking ghost tour. Poe has been doing two nightly tours on weekends on and off for about a year now. In October, he plans to do two tours every night leading up and through Halloween. The 90-minute walk is filled with tales of axe murderers, suicides, prostitutes, serial killers, public executions and how some of Birmingham’s best-known names were not content to just live on through their names on buildings. The start of the daily tours coincide with the opening of Poe’s new store, ArcanA, scheduled to open Oct. 1, at 2006 Second Ave. North. The shop will sell unusual antiques and Victorian-era items, often with a macabre bent. ArcanA will also hold séances and other events. Does the organ in the First Presbyterian Church play by itself? Does a worker who died in the Lyric Theatre have a ghost that likes to clean up after current workers? Is the Alabama Theatre haunted? The Birmingham Public Library? A parking lot or two? Poe not only provides a haunted history of Birmingham, but his tour is full of the history of Birmingham that includes the founding and delves into areas like it’s boomtown beginnings; the stories behind saloons, hotels, brothels and churches; the retail battle between Pizitz and Loveman’s; and the effects of segregation, prohibition and disease on Birmingham. It’s all the result of months of preparation Poe made studying about the history and trying to track down ghost stories. That research revealed at least 223 people died at Brown-Marx Tower – some of whom jumped to their deaths when the stock market dropped. There are important sites, buildings and even alleys that make up the tour. From Birmingham’s great humanitarian madam to its library director who found his own way to battle segregation or the Catholic priest who died because he did what he thought was right, the people from Birmingham’s past come alive on the tour through Poe’s introduction. For Poe, it all started when he wanted to take a ghost tour of Birmingham, only to find nobody was offering one. “I’ve lived in several cities where there were ghost tours,” Poe said. “I wanted to take a Birmingham ghost tour and there wasn’t one. So Poe launched it. Visitors to the tour pay \$15 for each adult and \$7 for each child 12 and younger.