



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

**Founded September 15, 1959
www.birminghamgenealogy.org**

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

NEWSLETTER No. 491

September 18, 2013

General Meeting for September: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 28th 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 September: Please join us on Saturday, September 28th for our **round-table discussion!** It is an opportunity to hear different ways to research your family as well as share your story. Come and share! **Please join us for the September meeting!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Don't forget the BGS October Fair on Saturday, October 26th! It's time to plan for your exhibit – some ideas to consider for an exhibit are old family photos, clothing worn by an ancestor, family histories, articles owned by or made by an ancestor. Ribbons to be awarded to the first, second and third place winners and of course the silver bowl is awarded to the first place winner! We need your participation!

Remember the Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc. Fall Seminar will be Saturday, October 12th at the Alabama Department of Archives & History in Montgomery! The speaker is Susan Sloan and the title of the program is **NCIS: Names, Clues, and Indirect Sources**. Check out <http://www.algensoc.org/main/seminars.html> for more information!

Research & Genealogical Tips: Human Maps

Genealogists use maps of political and geographical features for many reasons, including to see where records might have been maintained and where an ancestor might have easily traveled to find a spouse or a job. But maps of human relationships, biological, legal, and social may help as well. A family tree extending for ten generations may be nice to display, but is it helpful to your research when you are stuck on a specific person? A smaller chart, showing the relatives they may have interacted with may be more helpful. Don't neglect to include "step" relatives and "in-laws" as those are people your ancestor may have interacted with as well. Another chart showing people the "problem" ancestor interacted with may be helpful also--just be certain the nature of their interaction (witness, neighbor, etc.) so that you don't get more confused.

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The Montgomery Advertiser, 23 October 1913

Mrs. Felix J. Ellard, who died last night late after a short illness with pneumonia, will be buried Thursday following the funeral services at the Woodlawn Baptist Church. The interment will be in the Ellard cemetery, near Lewisburg. Mrs. Ellard was the widow of Felix J. Ellard, who was assassinated in March 1912, while on route to his home on the Lewisburg road and for which Teck A. Duncan is now serving a life sentence in the penitentiary at Wetumpka. She is survived by four daughters and one son.

Martha Alice Russell Ellard (24 Feb 1859 – 21 Oct 1913)

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



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The Birmingham Age-Herald, 3 July 1905

Fire, which started at 2 o'clock in the four-story building occupied by the Birmingham Paper Company at 2105 and 2107 Morris Avenue, destroyed that building and at the hour of going to press the Collins & Company's wholesale grocery adjoining at the corner of Twenty-first street and Morris Avenue was virtually destroyed. Fireman Gip B. Spruell was killed by a falling wall at 3 o'clock and Fireman Hoffman and Fireman Hodges were seriously injured. The origin of the fire is not known, but by the time the department had reached the scene the entire Paper Company building was wrapped in flames and the fire was spreading to the buildings on either side, the Tyler Grocery Company on the east side and the Collins Building on the corner. The fire loss will probably reach \$175,000.00.

Before 2:30 o'clock the floors of the Birmingham Paper Company had commenced falling in . Fireman Stanfield was caught under one of the walls and his left foot was badly bruised. His injuries are not serious. He was taken to fire department headquarters where medical attention was given him. Chief Mullin received a severe cut in the shoulder from falling glass, but paid no attention to the wound. Other firemen received lesser injuries. At 2:40 o'clock the fourth floor of the front wall fell, About a dozen firemen were standing under the wall, but all escaped except Huffman, who is the department electrician and Spruell, who has only been in the department a short while. The held a line of hose from one of the steamers. They were buried under the falling brick and it was some minutes before they were discovered as they were so completely covered by the debris. As soon as they were found willing hands revoked the debris and dragged them to one side. Physicians were summoned, but by the time they arrived Spruell was dead. His head and chest were badly bruised by the brick. He died as he was being taken to an ambulance at First Avenue and Twenty-First Street. Former City Physician Whelan attended him. He leaves a wife and two or three children. He was about 45 years old.

Hoffman was carried to Hillman Hospital. He had a severe wound in the head and several deep gashes about his face. As usual the fire department was entirely too small to cope with the fire. Chief Mullin stated at one time, when there was a chance to save the Collins Building, with proper equipment: "See. I have not enough men to do this work. We are hampered by lack of men." The fire had gained such a head way at 2:15 o'clock that the aerial truck was useless, as it could not be raised on account of the heat. Later it was used on the Collins Building. AT 4:15 Collins and Company's Store was still burning and there seems no chance of saving any part of it. It was a four-story structure. The fire started at the top and worked its way downward.

THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: One Page at a Time

No matter how many indexes exist or how accurate they supposedly are, if you have good reason to believe your person should be in a record, a page by page search may be necessary. As humans, indexers are fallible. As researchers who occasionally make mistakes as well, we should not expect them to be perfect.

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