



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. 468

August 23, 2011

General Meeting for August: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 27th on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the same room.

DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 1:30!

The program for August: Please join us as a panel of genealogists will present **"Why we do what we do – What each person can do to help others with their genealogical research."** As genealogists, we should go beyond our own research to assist others with their genealogical research.

Research & Genealogical Tips: One Piece of Paper Isn't Proof

There is more to "proving" a date of birth, a place of marriage, or a maiden name than finding it written on one piece of paper. At the risk of oversimplifying, the researcher should be at the very least be considering:

1. How accurate that "piece of paper" probably is;
2. The likely informant of that "piece of paper";
3. What other "pieces of paper" have to say;
4. How reasonable the information on that "piece of paper" is.

There's more to making a case than this, but these are elements of analysis that should be considered on a regular basis. And if at all possible, try and find other "pieces of paper" that mention the same date, location, or relationship. Ideally those pieces of paper will have different informants-preferably ones who had first hand knowledge of the information.

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Do you need a separate genealogy email address? Consider getting a separate email address for your genealogy research and correspondence. There are several places to get free email addresses, Yahoo, Hotmail, Google, to name a few. You shouldn't have to change it if your service provider changes, space is usually fairly generous, and web-based interfaces make it easy to check anywhere. And for some of us, it helps to keep genealogy emails separate from those in our "other life."

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

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor



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THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Those "Other" Spouses

Remember that if your ancestor was married more than once, records on those "other" spouses may be helpful to your direct line research. A second spouse may provide clues about the ancestor's other spouses, the ancestor's family, etc. And if the "other" spouse got a military pension, those records may be helpful as well.

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