



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. 462

January 14, 2011

General Meeting for January: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 22nd on the second floor of the main Birmingham Public Library in the Youth Department (the Story Castle). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGIN AT 1:30!

The program for January: **Beth Hunter**, a graduate student at the University of Alabama-Birmingham will present **Rammed Earth Houses: An American Vision in the New Deal**. This presentation will highlight the Rammed Earth Houses in the Gardendale/Mt. Olive Colony. These seven houses are unique in that they are the only such houses built by the government during the New Deal. A brief overview of the colony, colony life and the societal roles men and women played in the colony will be presented. Slides will include the making of a Rammed Earth House and current photos of the houses. Mrs. Hunter will bring a scrapbook of articles for your perusal after her presentation. Please join us for this very informative program!

Research & Genealogical Tips: Global Positioning System

Add a GPS in your cemetery kit - a hand held device about the size of a cell phone. It receives signals from a series of satellites circling the globe. If you go to the center of the cemetery and take a reading, and record the latitude and longitude those cemetery locations will be known, forever even if the stones are totally obliterated with time. Generations of the future will always know the location, even hundreds of years from now, of that site. As the ravages of acid rain, vandalism, development continue, there will be a record of the location of your ancestors final "home". I know everyone can't afford to go out to buy a GPS receiver, but maybe your local societies can - or maybe you could borrow one from a mountain climber or hiker, when you do your excursions. The price has been dropping on these units, as well as better features have been added. This technology can also be used for marking ancestral homesteads and lands, so even if the land gets developed into suburban sub-divisions, you'll know where the home originally stood. There are probably dozens of other uses that haven't been thought of yet, but I'm sure will be. It's just nice to be able to put a location down that will never change, even centuries from now. You can compute the exact position of the grave and store this information as a "waypoint".

*If you have not paid your 2011 Dues, please remit them to the
BGS Treasurer. Thanks!*

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor



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THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead *Ask A Local:*

Sometimes the best advice is actually gotten from someone who lives where the records are and has actually used the originals on paper. Digital copies and microfilm is great, but sometimes a person needs at least the advice of someone who is very familiar with the originals. An organizational structure that makes sense onsite might not make sense in the two-dimensional digital or microfilm version. And there might be records that for some reason were not filmed or digitized. If you're using records from BlahBlah County and have never been there, never viewed the records onsite, you might want to consider contacting a local person with some questions you may have. A local with years of experience with the records may be more helpful for your specific problem than a professional living hundreds of miles away.

(c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"
<http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, TIPDATE.