



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. 477

June 15, 2012

General Meeting for June: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 23rd on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:15 p.m. in the same room.

DON'T FORGET FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 1:30!

The program for June: Please join us as **Bob Davis** of Wallace State presents **"In Your Backyard: Secrets to Wallace State's Famed Genealogy Collection."** Robert Scott Davis is the director of the Genealogy Program of Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, Alabama. His duties include organizing field trips for his classes to libraries throughout the country; helping to build one of the South's most extensive genealogical collections; operating a microfilming facility; and teaching genealogy in one of the first colleges to offer genealogy as a college level course. In 2006, this program that he built received the Award for Outstanding Leadership in History from the American Association for State and Local History. Professor Davis also teaches survey courses in geography and history. In Alabama and Georgia, Bob has worked to raise public awareness on saving local government records and has been a member of the Alabama governor's historical records commission. He has been the guest speaker at hundreds of meetings of civic, genealogical, and historical organizations.

Research & Genealogical Tips: Before You Get That Death Certificate

If you want a copy of your ancestor's death certificate, think twice before paying one of those online places an exorbitant fee for "instant" or overnight services. Here are some general suggestions: (1)Check FamilySearch.org to determine if the certificates are online there at no charge. (2)Determine if the records have been microfilmed and are available via loan through the Family History Library. (3)Check the appropriate state archives or state historical library website to see if the certificates are online there. (4)Determine what the state office of vital statistics charges for a copy. (5)Determine what the county or town charges for a copy. Unless you are settling an estate or performing some type of legal work, a certified copy probably is not necessary. Check around before getting your copy from the first place that comes up when you perform a Google search.

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<http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/>, TIPDATE.

FGS 2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE – August 29 – September 1, 2012 Birmingham AL
Visit <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/> for additional information

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: How Many Courts Did A County Have?

Make certain you have searched the records of all the courts that a county or other local jurisdiction might have. Some counties might have separate "courts" that heard probates, guardianships, civil cases, criminal cases, etc. The judge and records office might have been the same, but the courts may have been separate with separate records.

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