



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. 474

March 19, 2012

General Meeting for March: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 24th on the third 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 March: Many early Alabama settlers were running from something in a checkered past looking for a new start. When Tom Davis arrived in Alabama he was not looking to change his ways but he was running from the law in Georgia. He had broken jail in 1816 in Warren County after being arrested for passing counterfeit money and found refuge in Brown's Valley in Blount County among the renegade Creeks, Cherokees and white outlaws hiding from the law. From newspaper accounts giving warnings of the circulation of bogus money, it is believed that Davis worked his counterfeit gang all up and down the East Coast in the early 1800s. By his own words, "he had been 38 years engaged in that business during which time he had made from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000." Some of the men associated with him and Alabama may have been involved in other places as well, but maybe seem to have been a personal charisma that drew to him all that had a bent for larceny. So it was not difficult to find men to help him operate his counterfeiting ring in Alabama. Please join us as **Miriam Fowler** presents "**Alabama Counterfeiters in Alabama!**"

Research & Genealogical Tips: Don't Ignore Siblings Without Descendants

Have you fully researched those siblings of your ancestors without descendants? Their pension applications, marriage records, census materials could be just as helpful on your direct ancestors in answering questions about your family's origins. And, if they had an estate requiring probate, those records could help document additional family relationships. Sometimes there's a big story in the aunt or uncle who never has children.

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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: When You Find That Relative in 1940

After you have transcribed and analyzed the information, take the names of neighbors from the census and ask family members if they remember people with those names. Names of neighbors can often jog people's memories and cause them to remember stories you never thought to ask. When the 1940 census comes out and you finally find your people, don't just file the information away. Use it.

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