



**THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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

**Founded March 15, 1959**

**[www.birminghamgenealogy.org](http://www.birminghamgenealogy.org)**

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

---

**NEWSLETTER No. 465**

**May 16, 2011**

**General Meeting for May:** Put on your walking shoes because it's time for the Annual BGS Walking Tour! The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21st at the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington in Columbiana (Shelby County)! Please note that there will not be a Board of Directors meeting.

**The program for May:** The **Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington** collection focuses on art and artifacts from the colonial period through 1865. The collection contains paintings, letters, furniture, porcelain, glassware, silver, jewelry, busts and more. Martha Washington's prayer book printed in New York in 1783, an original 1787 Samuel Vaughn sketch of Mt. Vernon grounds, writing instruments and tools from George Washington's survey case and an original tintype depicting Robert E. Lee in his uniform for the last time are just a few collection highlights. The beauty and craftsmanship of 18th and 19th century furniture is evidenced by a number of carefully preserved pieces from the estates of the Washington family and their descendants. Coin-silver utensils used at Mount Vernon, a 207-piece set of Minton porcelain and an exquisite pair of Sevres vases, circa 1785, from the Augustin Washington estate, the half-brother of George, highlight the display. One highly-regarded piece is a walnut games table with tulip and rosewood inlay (circa 1805). The beautiful table belonged to Bushrod Washington, a direct descendant, who inherited Mount Vernon upon Martha's death. The Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington, which contains the largest collection on the George Washington Family outside of Mt. Vernon, is located in the Mildred B. Harrison Library on 50 Lester Street, Columbiana (Shelby County), Alabama. For additional information, please call 669-8767 or visit the museum's website at <http://www.washingtonmuseum.com/>

**Research & Genealogical Tips: How the Information Got on Stone**

Think about how great-grandpa's information got on his tombstone. Someone thought they knew when he was born and so they told the guy who made the stone. Probably that same person provided the death information. If the stone was put up years after great-grandpa died, it is possible the stone has the wrong date of death. And the date of birth could be wrong as well. Tombstones are usually primary sources for the date of death, unless you can clearly tell it was erected years after the person died. The main thing is to transcribe it exactly as it is written. Your discussion of why you think it is wrong, right, etc. should be done in your notes.

© Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"

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

*Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor*



## 2011 Officers & Directors

President: Melissa Hogan - [genealogistinal@yahoo.com](mailto:genealogistinal@yahoo.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP (Programs): Gary Gerlach - [ggerlach@charter.net](mailto:ggerlach@charter.net)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Membership): Patricia Crim Dietlein - [pdietlein@aol.com](mailto:pdietlein@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Yvonne Brakefield - [ybrakefield@mac.com](mailto:ybrakefield@mac.com)  
Recording Secretary : Barbara Tillery - [JABTIL@bellsouth.net](mailto:JABTIL@bellsouth.net)  
Corresponding Secretary: Jyl Hardy - [jylhardy@charter.net](mailto:jylhardy@charter.net)  
Chaplain: Earl Massey - [CMassey007@aol.com](mailto:CMassey007@aol.com)  
Historian: Melissa Paulk - [melissapaulkgen@yahoo.com](mailto:melissapaulkgen@yahoo.com)  
Curator: Ben Faucher -  
Parliamentarian: Gary Gerlach - [ggerlach@charter.net](mailto:ggerlach@charter.net)  
Webmaster: Patrick Henry - [pthenry@mindspring.com](mailto:pthenry@mindspring.com)  
Publicity: A.C. Burttram Jr. - [a.burttramjr.@worldnet.att.net](mailto:a.burttramjr.@worldnet.att.net)

Director: Carol Massey (2011)  
Director: Jason Kirby (2011)  
Director: Scott Martin (2012)  
Director: Jane Larose (2012)  
Director: Barbara Smith (2013)  
Director: Gail Pugh (2013)

THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 2432  
Birmingham, AL 35201

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35201  
PERMIT NO. 4321

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## THE DEADSPACE COLUMN

### *Tips & Suggestions for researching the Dead: Land Warrant vs Land Patent*

A land warrant usually means that someone is entitled to a certain acreage of property, without giving any real specifics about where that property is. Warrants are issued for several reasons, with the most common reason being a reward for previous military service. A land patent transfers title to a specific piece of property to an individual.

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