



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. 476

May 17, 2012

General Meeting for May: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 26th 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 May: It is hard for most of us to imagine a world without the Food & Drug Administration, no knowledge of bacteria and germs, and lack of qualified medical practitioners, but that was the case 100-150 years ago. Please join us as **Michael A. Flannery**, Associate Director of Historical Collections at UAB presents "**The Era of Patent Medicines.**" Mr. Flannery will discuss both the myths and the facts of the era of patent medicines in the United States. Michael Flannery is the author of 8 books, most recently Alfred Russel Wallace: A Rediscovered Life (2011). Most of his research and published work has been in the history of pharmacy. In 2007 he edited and reissued Nicholas Culpeper's English Physician, which he published with the University of Alabama Press. He is professor and Associate Director for Historical Collections at UAB. Although a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, since 1999 he has been happy to call Alabama his home, where he lives with his wife and three mischievous cats in Shelby County.

Research & Genealogical Tips: How old was the Child's Mother?

If it appears that the "mother" of a child is in her mid-fifties or older and there's a gap of quite a few years between the last child and the child prior to the last one, consider that the last child might be the "mother's" grandchild and not her actual child. If there's an unmarried daughter in the household in her late teens, she could be the mother. Of course the "mother" actually could be the mother--assuming her age at the birth of the child isn't stretching the plausibility of childbirth too much. And it's possible the youngest child was actually adopted.

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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: Intestate Means No Will Admitted to Probate

If the estate records of your ancestor indicate she died "intestate" that means there was no valid will that was admitted to probate. There might have been a will, but that will was denied probate by the judge. That will should be filed with the court.
Read it if you can. Sometimes it's clear why the will was denied and sometimes it is not.

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