



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded April 15, 1959

www.bgsal.org

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

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

General Meeting for February: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, February 24th** on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the Computer Lab next to the Arrington Auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

Please join us as Paul Boncella, Map Conservator and Book Mender in the Southern History Department, Linn-Henley Research Building, presents: “Making the most of DNA matches and Analyses”. Genealogy and genetics have become interconnected. It is important to know what is in your genes. Your DNA can provide insight into your heritage that you cannot get from genealogy research alone. Please join us!

Research & Genealogical Tips

© Michael John Neill, “Genealogy Tip of the Day,”

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

Those Bondsmen Don’t Pay Up Unless Necessary: Bondsmen (sometimes called securities) on an administrator’s bond are not saying they are paying the bills of the estate. They are saying that they are vouching for the administrator and that if the administrator runs off, doesn’t pay the bills, etc. that they are “good for it” and have the funds to pay the bills—and the court will enforce the bond if necessary. If the administrator does his job, the bondsmen have no need to worry. Consequently the bondsmen are people who knew the administrator and trusted him to “do right” by the estate.

Bequest vs. Devise: A bequest is a gift of personal property in a will. A devise is a gift of real property in a will. Bequests and devises in wills can be made to heirs or to someone who is not an heir. An heir is someone who has statutory rights to inherit from the estate of a deceased person.

SAVE THE DATE: The Alabama Genealogical Society Spring Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Samford University. David Rencher will present “Online and Offline, Records are Windows to the Past.” You may find more information and additional information about the AGS Spring Seminar at <http://www.algensoc.org/main/SeminarFlyer.pdf>

The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor

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Y-DNA Testing for Genealogy

by Kimberly Powell, 16 October 2017

<https://www.thoughtco.com/y-dna-testing-for-genealogy-1421847>

Y-DNA testing looks at the DNA in the Y-chromosome, a sex chromosome that is responsible for maleness. All biological males have one Y-chromosome in each cell and copies are passed down (virtually) unchanged from father to son each generation.

How It's Used

Y-DNA tests can be used to test your direct paternal lineage - your father, your father's father, your father's father's father, etc. Along this direct paternal line, Y-DNA can be used to verify whether two individuals are descendants from the same distant paternal ancestor, as well as potentially find connections to others who are linked to your paternal lineage.

Y-DNA tests specific markers on the Y-chromosome of your DNA known as Short Tandem Repeat, or STR markers. Because females do not carry the Y-chromosome, the Y-DNA test can only be used by males. A female can have their father or paternal grandfather tested. If that is not an option, look for a brother, uncle, cousin, or other direct male descendant of the male line you're interested in testing.

How Y-DNA Testing Works

When you take a Y-line DNA test, your results will return both a general haplogroup, and a string of numbers. These numbers represent the repeats (stutters) found for each of the tested markers on the Y chromosome. The specific set of results from the tested STR markers determines your Y-DNA *haplotype*, a unique genetic code for your paternal ancestral line. Your haplotype will be the same as, or extremely similar to, all of the males who have come before you on your paternal line—your father, grandfather, great-grandfather, etc.

Y-DNA results have no real meaning when taken on their own. The value comes in comparing your specific results, or haplotype, with other individuals to whom you think you are related to see how many of your markers match. Matching numbers at most or all of the tested markers can indicate a shared ancestor. Depending upon the number of exact matches, and the number of markers tested, you can also determine approximately how recently this common ancestor was likely to have lived (within 5 generations, 16 generations, etc.).

Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Markets

Y-DNA tests a specific set of Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers. The number of markers tested by most DNA testing companies can range from a minimum of 12 to as many as 111, with 67 being commonly considered a useful amount. Having additional markers tested will generally refine the predicted time period in which two individuals are related, helpful for affirming or disproving a genealogical connection on the direct paternal line.

Example: You have 12 markers tested, and you find that you are an exact (12 for 12) match to another individual. This tells you that there is about a 50% chance that the two of you share a common ancestor within 7 generations, and a 95% chance that the common ancestor is within 23 generations. If you tested 67 markers, however, and found an exact (67 for 67) match with another individual, then there is a 50% chance that the two of you share a common ancestor within two generations, and a 95% chance that the common ancestor is within 6 generations.

The more STR markers, the higher the cost of the test. If cost is a serious factor for you, then you may want to consider starting with a smaller number of markers, and then upgrade at a later date if warranted. Generally, a test of *at least* 37-markers is preferred if your goal is to determine whether you descend from a specific ancestor or ancestral line. Very rare surnames may be able to obtain a useful result with as few as 12-markers.

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Join a Surname Project

Since DNA testing cannot on its own identify the common ancestor that you share with another individual, a useful application of the Y-DNA test is the Surname Project, which brings together the results of many tested males with the same surname to help determine how (and if) they are related to each other. Many Surname Projects are hosted by testing companies, and you can often receive a discount on your DNA test if you order it directly through a DNA surname project.

Some testing companies also give people the option to only share their results with people in their surname project, so you could potentially miss some matches if you are not a member of the project.

Surname projects generally have their own website run by a project administrator. Many are hosted by the testing companies, while some are hosted privately. WorldFamilies.net also offers free project websites for surname projects, so you can find many there. To see if a surname project exists for your surname, begin with the Surname Search feature of your testing company. An internet search for "*your surname*" + "*dna study*" or + "*dna project*" will also often find them. Each project has an administrator you can contact with any questions.

If you can't locate a project for your surname, you can also start one. The International Society of Genetic Genealogy offers tips for starting and running a DNA Surname Project - select the "For Admins" link on the left-hand side of the page.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Oldest Church in Jefferson County

By Bess Stout Lambert

[Transcribed from The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol. 02, No. 04, Winter Issue 1940]

Old Canaan Baptist church, founded September 5, 1818, may well be called the mother church of the Baptist denomination in Jefferson County. This church was located near old Jonesboro when it was first organized. It has been moved many times since. The congregation has had its ups and downs but it still has a fine congregation, a well-organized Sunday school and all the departments of Christian service are alive and flourishing. This church was organized sixty-eight years before the founding of Bessemer and for a long time was located just inside Cedar Hill Cemetery in Bessemer. Many of the first graves in Bessemer were located in the church yard. Brothers Speer and Duncan were the first deacons. The church in that sparsely settled country had less than thirty members. Reverend John Henry was the first pastor. He was called May second, 1819, and served until June 22, 1822. Then Reverend Hosea Holcomb served from July, 1822, until December 3, 1834. During his term as pastor the membership increased and the church was extended. Members got permission to start new churches at Rock Creek, Elyton and Rupee Valley. Then a helping hand was given to Ruhama and a little later a new church was begun near Thomas Spring in September, 1825. There were a number of Negro slaves who were received as members and a few Indians. In March, 1827, Canaan was received into the Mount Zion Baptist Association. Then in 1833 Canaan withdrew to help sister churches for a new association. The church was served from 1837 to 1847 by two pastors, Reverend Willie Burrus and Reverend John Lansing. It is interesting to note that the first missionary funds were collected in 1847. This was the year that the membership dwindled from 105 to just 29.

When H. G. Smith became pastor in 1850 the church was moved to Shades Creek. James P. Massey was the first treasurer of Canaan Church. The church history records show that the pioneers were even as humanity is now for the early members were disciplined for such sins as: dishonesty, dancing, lying, profanity, drunkenness, adultery, fornication and failure to attend church. The new church building at Morgan was dedicated in May, 1906 when W. S. Harrison was pastor. In 1910, Lacey's Chapel was organized with Mr. and Mrs. Vester Gables, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sims and Mary Nolan. The early roster bears the names of Drennan, Calfee, Moses, Pearson, Hogg, McMath, Buck, Janes, Davis, Garrett, Rolin, Mackcock, Wood, Harwood, and Hathcock.



Canaan Baptist Church (Samford University Library -Special Collection & University Archives)

WATER MILLS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY – 1886

Source: Bulletin, Geological Survey of Alabama, by Truman H. Aldrich, 1886 - Transcribed by Veneta McKinney

J. M. Landrum, Pinson, flour and grist mill	20
John Lowery Mill, Gary, flour and grist mill	12
Hendon's Corn Mill, Trussville, flour and grist mill	10
Posey's Mill, Morris, flour and grist mill	20
James W. Raney, Ezra, flour and grist mill	35
William B. Rogers, Toadvine, flour and grist mill	32
G. W. Underwood, Argo, flour and grist mill	15
William J. Wedgworth, Cardiff, flour and grist mill	10
W. W. Woodruff, Adamsville, flour and grist mill	8
W. M. Self, Oneonto, flour and grist mill	15
William M. Phillip, Greene, flour and grist mill	40
Hurst & Johnson, Pinson, lumber and timber mill	18
James W. Raney, Ezra, woolen goods	35

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MINISTER ARRESTED - Rev. W. B. EARNEST, pastor of the Wylam Baptist Church, was arrested this morning on a warrant charging him with disturbing public worship. The arrest grew out of the incident of some three weeks ago, previously chronicled in the News, when the pastor roughly handled a young man who had been creating a disturbance during service. The warrant was sworn out by Constable F. M. MCBEE and charges that Rev. Mr. EARNEST "willfully interrupted or disturbed an assemblage of people met for religious worship by fighting at or near the place of worship." Bond in case was placed at \$100 and the pastor had no trouble in making it, the good people of his vicinity falling over each other to gain the honor of putting their names upon his bond. A good many more people volunteered to sign it than was necessary and several superfluous names were placed thereon. The sensational incident out of which this arrest grew occurred about three weeks ago. Revival services were being conducted by Rev. Mr. EARNEST at the Wylam Baptist Church and the meeting had been disturbed in a manner most aggravation to the better class of people by several young men. At last the thing became unbearable and the disturbing elements was "called down" in no uncertain terms by Mr. Earnest. The remarks of the pastor made one of the alleged disturbers made and it is stated that he demanded an apology. Instead he received a thrashing at the hands of the preacher in the midst of the service. The name of the young man said to be Auther Hardin, is not mentioned in the warrant. The case will not come up until next September and it is believed that the proceedings will be stopped before that time. A miner from Wylam was seen this morning by a news reporter. He said that the people of Wylam applauded the action of Rev. Mr. Earnest and that they were "with him."

B'HAM NEWS - (*Winfield Enterprise, Marion County AL, June 22, 1899 - Transcribed by Veneta McKinney*)



A History Of Vestavia Hills Marker

In 1924, George Ward, a former mayor of Birmingham, 1905-1909, 1913-1914, visited the City of Rome, Italy. He was so intrigued by the unique beauty of the Temple of the Vestal Virgins on a Roman hilltop that he vowed to build a replica of it on a chosen site near Birmingham. The site he selected was on a beautiful crest of Shades Mountain approximately two miles east of here. The temple was completed in 1925. In Roman mythology, Vesta was the goddess of fire and of the family hearth, she was also the guardian angel of mankind. The temple was guarded by six Vestal virgins whose duties were to maintain the temple's eternal flame. Mayor Ward called his temple Vestavia. The area surrounding the temple soon became a thriving suburban city. The name Vestavia Hills naturally evolved. The structure above was the original summer house, The Temple of Sibyl The Prophetess. When the Vestavia Temple was destroyed, the Vestavia Hills Garden Club was responsible for moving the Temple of Sibyl to the present site. The rendering above is a replica of Mayor Ward's Vestavia Temple. This plaque was presented to the City of Vestavia Hills by the Vestavia Bicentennial Commission, 1976. Temple of Sibyl donated by Vestavia Hills Baptist Church - Listed in Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage - 1985

Don't Forget To Remit Your 2018 Dues!

\$20 Individual/\$25 Family

**Please Mail to: PO BOX 2432
Birmingham AL 35201**

For the Iron Age,
OBITUARY.

DIED, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. George Barton, on Sunday, the 15th inst., the Rev. BENJAMIN TARRANT, at the advanced age of eighty-one years.

The subject of this notice was born in South Carolina, but removed with his father, the Rev. James Tarrant, to Jones' Valley in 1819. He was one of a large and respectable family connexion, many of whom reside in this county at the present day. He served his country in the war of 1812 and was a pensioner of the United States at the time of his death. He had also been a member of the State Legislature, during the time that the Capital was at Tuscaloosa.

But his greatest distinction was that of a Methodist preacher, in which capacity he served his church for the space of about thirty years. Having been converted from infidelity when more than fifty years old, he became a zealous and widely known minister of the Gospel and was distinguished for his zeal and usefulness in calling sinners to repentance. With his own hand he received more than six hundred members into the Church and was present at the conversion of thousands. His last sermon was preached at the Turkey Creek Camp-meeting in 1872, since which time he was seldom able to attend church; but declined gradually, till on the evening of the Holy Sabbath, he fell asleep. He had survived most of his contemporaries, and having passed his four-score years, the silver cord was gently loosed, and, with an unflinching trust he walked through the valley and shadow of death, not fearing any evil.

F. M. G.

Birmingham.

We can see no reasonable obstacle why Birmingham will not some day be a great city. It is evidently laid out for one of the first magnitude. We visited her machine shops, foundries, water works, and, in fact, perogitated the entire city over, during our stay; met a good many acquaintances, and, by the way, had a good and pleasant time while there. We also visited the Iron Age, and found the proprietors of the paper genial and clever. Their weekly work ranks with the first of the State. Miss host of the Ketchum House is a very nice old gentleman, and we can assure the travelling public that his table is bountifully supplied, and his beds are decidedly nice. Everybody we conversed with seemed to be sanguine that the hardest times were about over with Birmingham. Long may she wave, and we hope that all who have expended money in building up that city may never regret the venture.

We did not have sufficient time to note the immense improvements by the wayside, as we should or would, but suffice it to say that Pratt's or Ironton seems to display the largest amount of capital of any improvement between here and Birmingham. At some future day we hope to have something to say about every enterprise worthy of note in the State.—
[Montgomery Evening Ledger.

*The above is not intended to take

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19 February 1874
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