



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded April 15, 1959

www.bgsal.org

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

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Please note there is no meeting for March. Members are encouraged to attend the Alabama Genealogical Society Spring Seminar to be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Samford University. David Rencher will present "Online and Offline, Records are Windows to the Past."

Research & Genealogical Tips

Administrators with the Will Annexed: Administrators are usually appointed when the person whose estate is being settled left no valid will. Sometimes the executor appointed will choose not to act or be unable to act. Sometimes the will will not name an executor. In those cases, the court may appoint an administrator "with the will annexed" indicating the person technically is an administrator, but that they will settle the estate according to the terms of the will. Normal administrators (without a will annexed) will settle the estate and make disbursements according to contemporary state statute.

How Long Did the Probate Drag Out? When using probate records, make certain you have the entire file—especially final accountings and disbursements. Probates that took decades to settle may list "new heirs" if original heirs died before the estate was closed. This may include some grandchildren and other more distant heirs besides children who may have originally been listed.

Grantors and Grantees: The grantor on a deed is the person who has title to the property and is transferring that title to someone else. There may be more than one grantor on a deed—often it is the spouse, but not always. The grantee is the person to whom the title is being transferred. There may be more than one grantee. Land records are local records and usually have indexes created for them. There usually are separate grantor and grantee indexes and those indexes usually only include the name of the first grantor and first grantee. Indexes can differ slightly (or not so slightly) from one location to another. Familiarize yourself with an index when beginning work in a new location.

US Census Records Before 1830: For United States censuses taken before 1830 the federal government did not provide forms for enumerators to use. Consequently there is not a standard appearance to federal enumerations before that date. Some locations did use their own pre-printed forms, but there was no national standard.

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

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

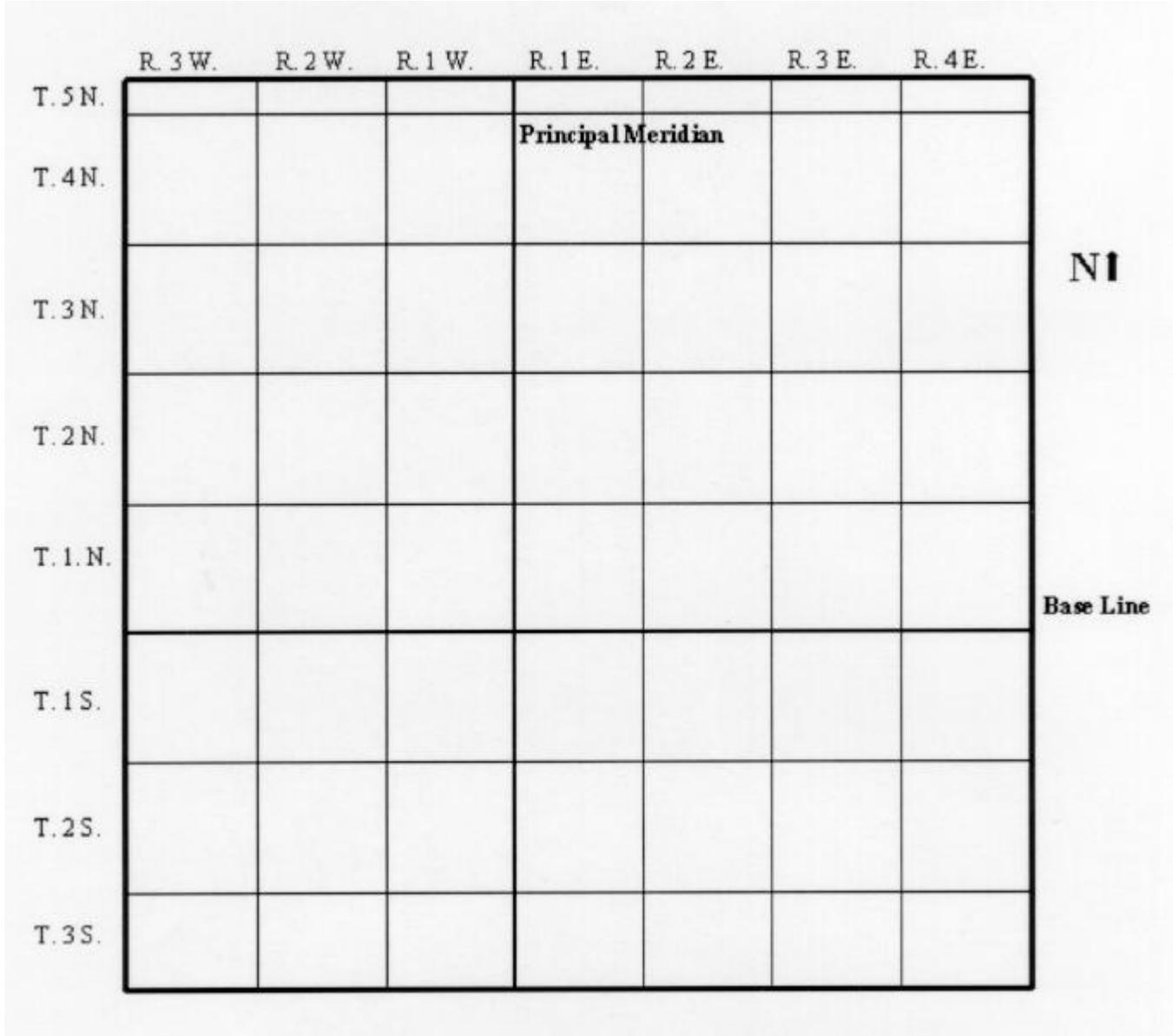
Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor

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Understanding Township and Range

<http://www.jsu.edu/dept/geography/mhill/phygeogone/trpracf.html>

TOWNSHIP measures the distance NORTH or SOUTH from the BASE LINE which is a designated parallel. A township USUALLY measures SIX MILES in size. The first six miles north of the base line is township one north written T. 1 N., running from 0 to 6 miles north of the base line. T. 4. S. would, therefore, be 18 to 24 miles south of the base line. RANGE measures EAST or WEST from the PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN which is a designated meridian. Ranges are also USUALLY SIX MILES in size. The first six miles west of the principal meridian would be range one west, R. 1 W.. R. 3 E. would be 12 to 18 miles east of the principal meridian. Each square, six miles by six miles is called a township.



Townships are subdivided into SECTIONS. Since each township is six miles by six miles, township contains 36 square miles, each one forming a section. These are identified with a number based on their position. The northeasternmost section is section 1. They are numbered to the west in this northernmost row. The northwesternmost section in the township is section 6. Below it in the second row is section 7. This row is

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numbered toward the east. This snakelike pattern is continued so that the southwesternmost section is section 31 and the southeasternmost section is section 36. Note that to the east of section 36 will be section 31 of the next range but same township, and to the south of section 36 will be section 1 of the next township but the same range.

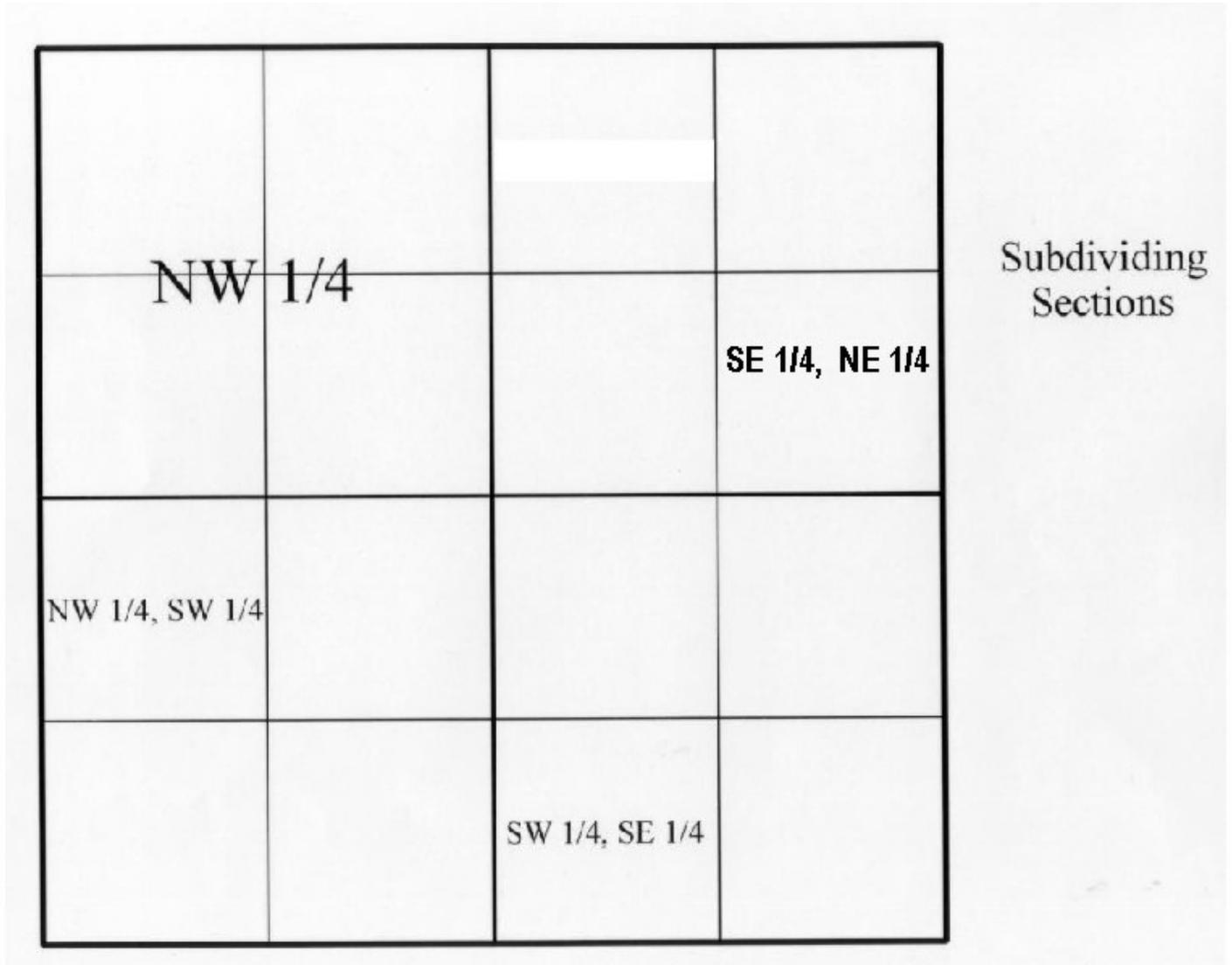
6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

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SECTIONS

Sections are further divided into quarters. These are the northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest quarters. Each of these usually contain 160 acres. These quarters are then further divided into quarters, which are then 40 acres. The smallest quarter is given followed by the largest quarter, then the section, and then the township and range. For example, the NE 1/4, SW 1/4, sec. 30. T. 5 S., R. 7 E. This is read as the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section thirty, township five south, range seven east.

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Up to the time of the Revolutionary War, or until about the beginning of the present century [i.e., the nineteenth century], land, when parcelled out, and sold or granted, was described by “Metes and Bounds,” and that system is still in existence in the following States, or in those portions of them which had been sold or granted when the present plan of surveys was adopted, viz.: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas and the six New England States. To describe land by “Metes and Bounds” is to have a known land-mark for a place of beginning, and then follow a line according to the compass-needle (or magnetic bearing), or the course of a stream, or track of an ancient high-way. This plan has resulted in endless confusion and litigation, as land-marks decay and change, and it is a well-known fact that the compass needle varies and does not always point due North. The present system of Governmental Land Surveys was adopted by Congress [United States Public Land Surveys] on the 7th of May, 1785. It has been in use ever since and is the legal method of describing and dividing lands. It is called the “Rectangular System,” [or, “Township and Range System”] that is, all its distances and bearings are measured from two lines which are at right angles to each other.... These two lines, from which the measurements are made, are the Principal Meridians, which run North and South, and the Base Lines, which run East and West.... Each Principal Meridian has its Base Line, and these two lines form the basis or foundation for the surveys or measurements of all the lands within the territory which they control.

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Dear Cousin,

In response to your letter, I am sorry to inform you that grandpa "Fred" died some time back and the stuff you asked about is not available. The personal property the family did not want was sold at an estate sale. All those boxes of junk did not interest a single buyer.

We were able to salvage several binders for the kids homework after we sent all the paper to the incinerator. The kids really complained about having to lug all that paper and pictures of those ugly old folks to the Dumpster. An old family Bible from the 1840's did bring \$ 5.00. The one from the 1870's did not sell.

There also was a bunch of floppy disks that we were able to reformat and download some games for the kids to play on their new play station. At least SOMEBODY got some good from the three generations work.

I saw the fellow at a flea market a couple of weeks ago and he said he threw the Bible in the trash after nobody was interested in it. He said he got an offer for fifty cents for it, but would rather burn it than give it away. He seemed to be having a lot of success with some very nice Elvis paintings at his booth.

The two aunts you asked about are also dead. They were such a delight and could talk all day long about the things papa had written about.

I remember them saying something about some records that were copied from two courthouses that later burned. Neither ever wrote down a single thing.

The letter you referred to was one he typed up and sent to lots of folks who wrote him. He laughed about them never getting any of his hard work as well as his Fathers and Grandfather who was in the Civil War. He guarded all the information carefully to the bitter end.

I wish I could remember some of the things to help you, but I was bored to tears listening to them talk about the family members who were in the civil war and those silly pieces of paper he showed so proudly. I vaguely remember they had some beeswax seals and something to do with the land grants that were destroyed in the courthouse fires. I wish I could remember the story about his grandfather's evening with Jefferson Davis when he was on the run.

There are also some very juicy stories that were handed down, but I don't remember them very well.

Another thing I remember after he got sick was some fellow calling him and he agreed to let him come down and copy all his material. He told him he would call him back when he felt better. Papa mentioned something about letting the society the man was from have all his work since nobody in the family cared anything about a bunch of people who had been dead for 200 years. Papa died the next week.

I am so sorry papa and the two generations wasted so much of their life on such worthless hobbies and hope your family will follow something more interesting. We enjoy Bingo and bowling very much here in Pleasantville.

I really enjoyed hearing from a long lost cousin and would like to hear back if you find anything important. The kids need the computer for their games and I need to watch the "Millionaire" show.

Thank you, Cuz,

Register now for a

FREE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP!

Thursday, April 12, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Birmingham Public Library, 2100 Park Place

LIMITED SEATING!
Two tracks (beginner and intermediate).
Both tracks will end the day with a 40-minute
seminar on DNA and family history.

Register here:
<https://aub.ie/AHAGenealogyWorkshop>

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