

THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded March 15, 1959

www.bgsal.org

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

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

General Meeting for October: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, October 27th** 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, of the Southern History Department, presents “DNA Ethnicity.” A genealogical DNA test is a DNA-based test which looks at specific locations of a person's genome in order to determine ancestral ethnicity and genealogical relationships. Results give information about ethnic groups the test subject may be descended from and about other individuals that they may be related to. Three principal types of genealogical DNA tests are available, with each looking at a different part of the genome and useful for different types of genealogical research: autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y. *Please join us!*

Research & Genealogical Tips

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

State Hospitals: If you can't find where your relative died, is it possible that she died in a state hospital several counties away? During the late 19th and early 20th century, it was not uncommon to institutionalize family members that relatives could no longer care for. They may have died in a state institution several counties away in a place where you have not thought to look for a death certificate. And, if the family was of very limited means, the person of interest may have been buried in an unmarked grave on the facility's grounds.

Did He Own It When He Died? If you are unable to find a probate settlement for your ancestor and you “know” he owned land, make certain you have all the deeds—did he sell his property right before his death and avoid probate? And did he really own land at all or is that just family fiction?

Searching Without Names: When querying that database do you search without names? Searching on locations and approximate years of birth may be the approach it takes to find your person. Also avoid the temptation to fill in as many search boxes as possible. Searching a database is not a contest to see who has the most boxes filled in. Sometimes less is more. The best way to go is usually to enter minimal information first, see how many results that gives you, and go from there.

Is the Unindexed Record Indexed? Are you using an 1820 census enumeration where the names appear to be listed in roughly alphabetical order? Census takers and some tax collectors, in an attempt to be helpful, roughly sorted names by the first letter of the last name. The problem for genealogists is that this strips the record of all sense of neighborhood. Keep this in mind when you think all the “B’s” in an area lived together. No group of people are that organized.

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

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor

Bring Out Your Dead: A Look at Mortality Schedules

by Thomas MacEntee | Oct 31, 2013

In genealogy, when we think of United States census research, we think of people who were counted as being alive at a specific location during a specific time period. However, for certain census years, did you know that dead people were also tracked and counted? Even better, other valuable research information such as birth place, occupation, cause of death and the attending physician or coroner could also be listed. Many states did not keep civil death records in the mid- to late-1800s. Mortality schedules, part of some federal censuses, can help fill in the gap for some ancestors who died during that time.

Non-Population Schedules of the U.S. Federal Census

The "regular" part of the census - the one that genealogists tend to focus on - is known as the population schedules. Mortality schedules are one of several different "supplements" to the Federal census known as non-population schedules. These schedules focus on specific topics. Between 1810 and 1900, the United States census included supplemental schedules covering agriculture, manufacturing, veterans, slaves and mortality. Not every census covered every topic, and earlier non-population schedules usually collected less information than those in later years. The key is to know where to find the valuable information contained in these schedules, like the mortality schedules, and how to incorporate it into your genealogy research.

Mortality Schedules: What You'll Find

For each Federal census taken in 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1885, you can access the related Mortality Schedule and its wealth of information. (The mortality schedules for the 1890 and 1900 censuses no longer exist.) These schedules list those who died in the twelve months before the official census day, which, for the years containing mortality schedules, was June 1st. This means you'll find those who died from 1 June 1849 through 31 May 1850 in the 1850 mortality schedule; 1 June 1859 through 31 May 1860 in the 1860 mortality schedule, etc.

Here is a listing of available information found in each set of mortality schedules:

1850 Mortality Schedules: Name of deceased, age at death, sex, color, status (free or enslaved), marital status, birthplace, month of death, occupation, cause of death or disease, and number of days ill.

1860 Mortality Schedules: Name of deceased, age at death, sex, color, status (free or enslaved), marital status, birthplace, month of death, occupation, cause of death or disease, and number of days ill.

1870 Mortality Schedules: Family number (as shown on the population schedule), name of deceased, age at death, sex, color, marital status, birthplace, father foreign born, mother foreign born, month of death, occupation, and cause of death or disease.

1880 Mortality Schedules: Family number (as shown on the population schedule), name of deceased, age at death, sex, color, marital status, birthplace, father foreign born, mother foreign born, month of death, occupation, and cause of death or disease.

1890 Mortality Schedules: Destroyed by fire along with most of the population schedules for the 1890 census.

1900 Mortality Schedules: Non-existent; ordered destroyed by act of Congress. The exception is Minnesota with the 1900 mortality schedule having been published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

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SCHEDULE 3.—Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, in <i>Monday Creek Twp.</i> in the County of <i>Perry</i> State of <i>Ohio</i> , enumerated by me, <i>H. H. Hardy</i> Ass't Marshal.										
NAME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, whose usual Place of Abode at the Time of his Death was in this Family.	DESCRIPTION.					PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	The Month in which the Person died.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	Number of DAYS ILL.
	Age	Sex.	White Caucasian	Black, or Colored	Married or widowed.					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Deborah Mills	25	f		M	Ohio	April	Housewife	Consumption & D.	1
2	Patrick McNamee	2	m			Ohio	March		Croup	14
3	Francis Donaldson	57	m		M	Md.	Nov.	Farmer	Diseas	10

1850 Mortality Schedule, Monday Creek Township, Perry County, Ohio. Downloaded from Archives.com.

Check State Census Schedules, Too

Some states, such as New York, also recorded death information for those who died in the preceding year when conducting a state census. Often the mortality schedule will be located at the end of the regular population schedule; for example, it is Table VI for the 1865 New York state census.

An Added Bonus: The 1885 Census

Yes, Virginia there was a U.S. Federal census in 1885... sort of. And there were also mortality schedules among the non-population schedules for that census. If your research includes the states of Colorado, Florida or Nebraska, or the Dakota or New Mexico territories, you should check the mortality schedules for 1885. Ancestry.com has a searchable database titled U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885, which includes the 1885 census.

The 1885 mortality schedule counted those who died between 1 June 1884 and 31 May 1885. Information included the name of the deceased, descriptive information including age and gender, marital status, birthplace for both the deceased and the parents of the deceased, occupation, cause of death, length of residence in county, and the name of the attending physician.

One feature was the inclusion of individuals a) who died in the enumeration district but had no family members in said district and those b) who died outside the enumeration district with family member located in said district. An example of an 1885 mortality schedule from Nebraska can be found [here](#).

Further Benefits of Mortality Schedules

Besides providing much needed death record data when such data was not yet maintained on the county or state level, here are some other benefits of mortality schedules:

Pre-1850 Census Research: Up until 1850, only the head of household was listed by name in the U.S. federal census. Mortality schedules can include valuable information to fill in the gaps of such missing information including name, age, birthplace and more.

Slave Research: For the 1850 and 1860 schedules, some enslaved ancestors listed in mortality schedules are enumerated by name along with their age and birthplace; such information is normally not found until the 1870 census.

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Family Medical History: The cause of death for an individual, and a group of individuals from the same family, can offer insights into genetic diseases. Keep in mind that modern diseases were listed using terms commonly understood at the time, such as "consumption" instead of tuberculosis.

Further Clues: A cause of death can offer clues to how the decedent lived; a workplace accident can indicate an occupation; a homicide can push a researcher towards further research using newspapers or court records.

Warning: Mortality Schedules Are Not The Last Word

The mortality schedules of the U.S. federal census are not without their own unique issues. Some researchers suggest that deaths were under-reported by as much as 20-40% on these schedules. Also, in the 1880 schedules, for example, enumerators were asked to list where a disease was contracted if different than the place of death for the decedent. Also listed where those who died outside the enumeration district but were connected to a family household in the district. Understandably, records become confusing and some deceased individuals are recorded on two schedules. In addition, for slave research, enslaved ancestors who died may be omitted outright or recorded without surnames or with the surname of the slave owner.

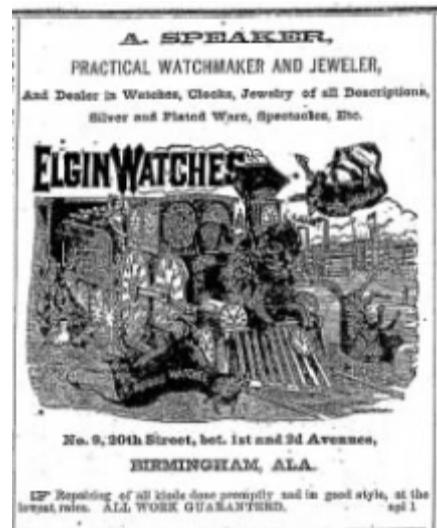
As with any record, use multiple sources of information to verify or to discount what is located in these schedules.

Conclusion: Mortality schedules as supplements to the U.S. federal census are important to genealogy research due to the time period in which the information was collected. From 1850 to 1900, many states did not have uniform systems of recording deaths such as requiring death certificates or registration of deaths on the county or state level. Thus, the mortality schedules can fill this gap where no death records are thought to exist.

Resources

- Ancestry.com, "U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885"
- Ancestry.com Wiki, "Non-Population Schedules and Special Censuses"
- Crawford, Rebecca, "The Forgotten Federal Census of 1885" (*Prologue Magazine*, Fall 2008, Vol. 40, No. 3)
- Cyndi's List: Diseases & Medical Terms
- King, Echo, "Mortality Schedules: Unlocking the Mystery"
- Olive Tree Genealogy: Glossary of Ancient Diseases
- Roach, Anne, "Making Sense of the Census: The U.S. Federal Population Census"

NOTE: The 1850 Mortality Schedule is available on Archives.com as part of the 1850 Census.



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JOHN R. TURNER, President.

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J. L. JOHNSON.

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B. F. RODEN,

2d Avenue, 2d door West of 20th street.

Birmingham Iron Age, 6 April 1881

MARRIED IN ALABAMA.

In Nashville, recently, John Carter and Corrie McKeithan, of Bessemer. Runaways.

In Greene county, 17th ult., James R. Jones and Julia Rockwell.

In Greene county, 28th ult., Wm B. Chamberlain and Miss Nancy Strickland.

In Greene county, 28th ult., Anderson Brownlow and Rosalinda Jane Vassellie.

In Estow, 28th ult., Dr Isaiah D. Morgan and Cassandra Lockland.

In Monte-ville, 20th ult., Henderson Pebbles and Lizzie Withers.

In Selma, recently, Jacob Long and Theresa Weil.

In New Orleans, La., 22d ult., Hon. Thos. Seay, of Greenbrier, and Clara Dele-de-dever.

In Shelby county, 17th ult., S. W. Anderson and Mary E. Horton.

At Unontown, 20th ult., L. Bloch, of Selma, and Sarah Pruskauer.

In Sumter county, 24th ult., J. W. Lee, of Tennessee, and Jessie Rogers.

In Huntsville 24th ult., Jas L. Martin and Mary E. Spivey.

In Sumter county, recently, Capt. Lee, of Tennessee, and Mrs. Hargrove, of Mobile.

Near Marcy, 27th ult., Wm Maynor and Nellie DuPre.

Near Salem, 30th ult., Wm Miller, of West Point, Ga., and Molly Elam.

In Lee county, 27th ult., Thomas Wor-thy and Jessie Pace.

In Moresville, 30th ult., Henderson Pre-bbles and Lizzie Withers.

Birmingham District, North Alabama Conference.

SECOND MEETING OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

Birmingham station, April 2d and 3d.

Montevallo circuit, at Calera, April 9th and 10th.

Birmingham circuit, at Oak Grove, April 10th and 11th.

Oxmoor station, at Oxmoor, April 23d and 24th.

Coketon circuit, at May's Chapel, April 30th and May 1st.

Jones Valley circuit, at Cedar Mount, May 7th and 8th.

Pellum circuit, at Bethlehem, May 14th and 15th.

Murphree's Valley circuit, at Pleasant Hill, May 21st and 22d.

Ashville circuit, at Ashville, June 4th and 5th.

Newcastle circuit, at Bethlehem, June 11th and 12th.

Collman mission, at X Road, June 16.

Blount Springs circuit, at Warrior, June 18th and 19th.

Tuscaloosa circuit, at Scottsville, June 25th and 26th.

Jonesboro circuit, at ——, July 2d and 3d.

The District Conference will be held at Montevallo, embracing the 5th Sabbath in May. The conference will be organized Thursday, the 26th, at 3 p. m.

The opening sermon will be preached by the Rev. John B. Gregory, Thursday, at 7 p. m.

W. C. McCoy, P. E.

DIED IN ALABAMA.

In Mobile, recently, Chas K. Born.

At Scottsboro, recently, Mrs. McCord.

In Etowah county, recently, Rev. W. C. Reed of DeKalb county.

Near Spring Hill, 19th ult., Miss Laura Skinner.

At Montgomery, March 31st, Elizabeth, infant daughter of Wm. Dudley and Bettie Chipley.

In Montgomery, 30th ult., Daniel H. Crain.

In Baldwin county, recently, Alexander Durward.

At Healing Springs, 30th ult., Mr. Lewis Scranton, of Mobile, aged 50 years.

In Shelby county, 28th ult., Mr. E. Gillham.

At Union Springs, 20th ult., Mrs. P. B. Baldwin.

In Lowndes county, recently, Mrs. Ella Hansen.

In Wilcox county, 21st ult., Judge Gordon.

At Florence, 25th ult., Mrs. Sarah Huntson aged 60 years.

At Huntsville, 25th ult., Mrs. Mary T. Martin, aged 64 years.

At Huntsville, 25th ult., Emma L., wife of J. Walter Laxon.

At Huntsville, 28th ult., Walter Baldwin-Laxon, infant.

At Huntsville, 27th ult., Mrs. Centaurie P. Gibbs.

At Salem, 26th ult., Mr. R. W. Pruitt.

In Randolph county, 27th ult., Mrs. T. P. Green.

At Rome, 27th ult., Mrs. John Sony.

In Alexander City, 30th ult., infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Young.

At Fitzpatrick's, recently, John P. Wells.

Near Bruceville, 29th ult., Wm. Strum.

At Union Springs, 28th ult., Phillips B. Bullock.

Pioneer Trails Newsletter

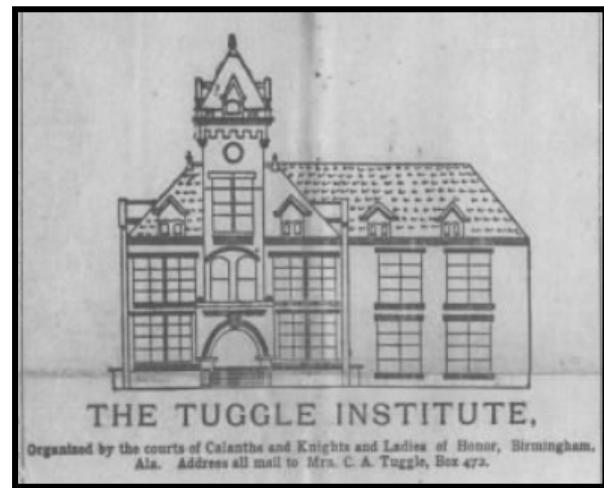


Mrs. Carrie A. Tuggle was born on May 28, 1858, in Eufaula, Alabama, where she grew up and married John Tuggle. She was the mother of four children. The Tuggles migrated to Birmingham around the turn of the century in search of enhanced job and cultural opportunities. Mrs. Tuggle was a person of unique strengths. She excelled in the areas of education, social work, and religion.

As a citizen of Birmingham, she worked with delinquent boys and as a welfare officer often appeared in court in their behalf. Following one appearance in behalf of a ten year old boy, Mrs. Tuggle conceived the idea of providing housing facilities for orphaned black children. At first, children were taken into her home. After a great struggle and continuous effort to raise funds for this project, she and her supporters opened a one-building school and residence for homeless black boys on September 3, 1903. As a result of inspiration from the same courtroom experience, Mrs. Tuggle was instrumental in the formation of the Jefferson County Juvenile and Domestic Court.

From its beginning, the orphanage and school rapidly grew. The children called Mrs. Tuggle "Granny" and adults called her "Old Lady Tuggle" with both terms used affectionately. Tuggle Institute won high regard among the citizens of Birmingham. It contributed substantially to the advancement of black people. Many outstanding Birmingham citizens graduated from this Institute, including Dr. A. G. Gaston, John T. Whatley, and Ersking Hawkins. In 1926, Tuggle Institute became affiliated with the Birmingham City Public Schools. In 1934, the City Board of Education purchased the Institute and named it Enon Ridge School. In 1936, the name was changed to Tuggle Elementary School by the Board of Education. Inscribed on the memorial plaque are these words: "Carrie A. Tuggle, a scholar, educator and servant of mankind."

(Source: <http://www.awhf.org/toggle.html>)



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