



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded March 15, 1959

www.bgsal.org

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

THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

General Meeting for May: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, May 25th** 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: "Map Your DNA". 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. Discover how to trace segments of your DNA to specific ancestors and how to use this information to identify unknown matches. You need only one known match to get started. **Please join us!**

Research & Genealogical Tips

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

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

Track the Widowed Ancestors: It can be easy to lose a female ancestor after her husband dies. Sometimes she's right there where she always was and sometimes she's not. Failing to research the widow after her husband's death can cause the researcher to overlook additional information and possible clues about her origins and parents. Sometimes additional children are overlooked. If you've lost your widowed ancestress, consider:

- searching marriage records to see if she remarried;
- looking for deeds drawn up after the husband's death or (more likely) settlement deeds drawn up after the widow died;
- whether she moved in with one of her children who had left the area;
- looking to see if she's buried near any of her children in cemeteries other than where the husband is buried;
- seeing if she applied for any military pensions based upon her husband's service.

These suggestions won't apply to all people in all places, but they are worth considering. And, as always, learn as much as you can about the local records that were created and being kept during the time period your ancestors lived there.

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

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor

Overcoming Brick Walls in Your Family Tree with a Genealogy DNA Test

February 22, 2019 - by Amie Tennant (Family Search Blog)

Today, many people are turning to DNA testing to overcome brick walls in their family history research. When you are unable to find information to go back any further in your family tree, DNA testing might help you break through these research barriers.

To get through a brick wall, successful genealogists often start by using traditional research methods and tried and true techniques. A genealogy DNA test can work alongside these methods and help break through a brick wall when nothing else can.

Three Types of DNA Testing You Might Use to Overcome Brick Walls

There are several DNA companies that provide opportunities to find relatives in what is generally called a “DNA match list.” DNA cousin matches are people whose DNA significantly matches your own. But with many types of DNA tests, how do you know which one to use? Below is a quick summary of three types of DNA testing that can help the most with brick walls.

- **An Autosomal DNA Test**—This DNA test can be taken by males or females and will typically give you DNA matches within about 5 to 6 generations on both your mother and father’s sides of the family.
- **The YDNA Test**—This DNA test can be taken only by a male, as it is used to track the Y chromosome passed from father to son over the generations. It extends back many generations. The YDNA test can provide relative matches and a paternal haplogroup. If a father’s family line is in question, this DNA test may help break down that brick wall.
- **The mtDNA Test**—This DNA test can be taken by males or females, but it looks only at the genetic markers of your mother’s maternal line. It too extends back many generations. The mtDNA test will provide a maternal haplogroup and DNA matches for the maternal line. If your brick wall involves your mother’s maternal family line, this DNA test may be helpful (although an mtDNA test will naturally have a higher margin for error in the maternal line than a YDNA has in the paternal line).

Strategies for Overcoming Brick Walls with DNA

After you’ve taken a DNA test, various strategies can help you break through your brick wall problem. Here are some common problems that DNA can help with and strategies for tackling these brick walls with your DNA test results.

Using DNA to Find an Unknown Parent or Grandparent

To find an unknown parent or grandparent, start by sorting your DNA matches into groups. Many companies help you do this sorting by using a shared or “in common with” feature to show you matches that share DNA with each other. When a whole group has matching DNA, it may mean they all share a common ancestor.

Compare trees with some of these matches to see which groups are connected to your known parents or grandparents, and set these aside. With these set aside, you can focus on matches that might lead you to your unknown relative. Compare trees with these matches, and try to find an ancestor who appears in more than one of the trees. This approach provides a starting point for traditional research, as this common ancestor is possibly related to you and your unknown relative.

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As you research the descendants of this common ancestor, look for dates and places that match the information you know about yourself and your unknown relative. Confirm your relationship by asking other living descendants to take a DNA test.

Using DNA to Find New Avenues for Research

If your research hits a brick wall due to immigration or migration, name changes, or missing records, DNA may suggest clues that can lead you to new relatives, surnames, or locations. To identify these clues, you'll need to use information about your brick-wall ancestor (the ancestor whose family line ends or who you're trying to find more information about).

First, identify other descendants of your brick-wall ancestor who have also taken a DNA test (or ask other descendants to take a DNA test). Use the shared or "in common with" feature provided by your DNA testing company to identify other DNA matches connected to the same brick-wall ancestor. Review those matches and their trees. Look for people, surnames, or locations that match the information you already know about your brick-wall ancestor. Next, use records to research these relatives and try to connect them to your brick-wall ancestor.

Using DNA to Confirm a Relationship

If records were burned or are missing or were never created, you can break brick walls by first hypothesizing and then using DNA to confirm a relationship. Start by researching your brick-wall ancestor and identifying possible relatives. Then locate and test living descendants of both your brick-wall ancestor and the possible relatives of this ancestor. Compare the DNA of the descendants of the brick-wall ancestor with the DNA of the descendants of the proposed relatives. If the DNA matches at an expected rate, the relationship probably existed.

Using DNA to Do Collaborative Research

Once you have identified DNA matches that may be related to your brick-wall ancestor, contact these matches to discover what they know about their family lines, especially if they have not uploaded a tree to the DNA testing site.

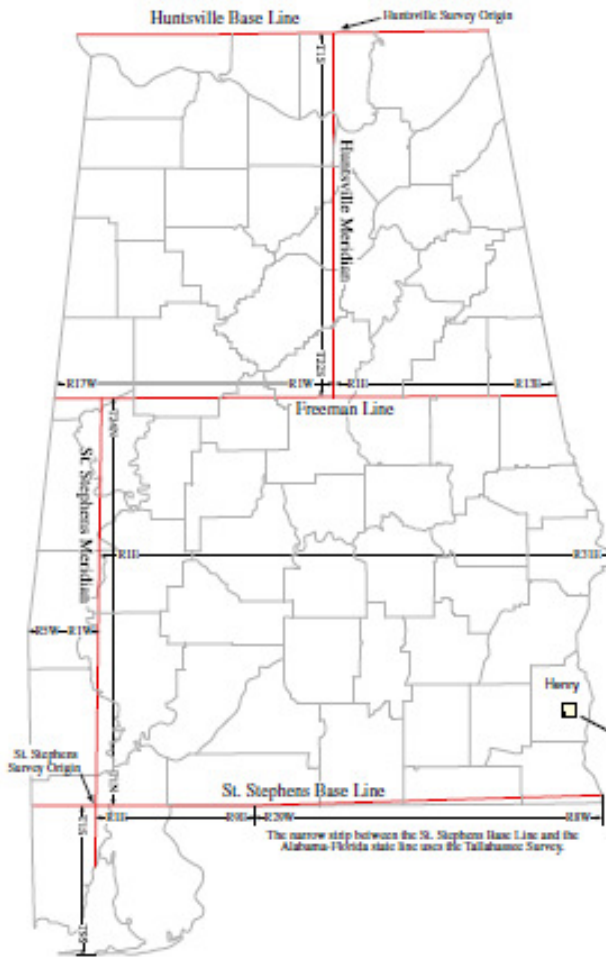
If your brick-wall ancestor is more recent, a DNA match may have living memory of the person or the person's descendants who can help you track down relevant records and vital information. They may also have a family tree or other information that can help.

If your DNA match does not include a family tree or has limited information but you both want to learn more about your ancestors, you may want to work on the problem together. A family history site that allows you to upload and share family tree data can be a good way to learn from and collaborate with DNA matches. FamilySearch.org offers a shared family tree for free.

Getting Help

Solving brick walls with DNA is not a simple or easy process, but many places offer DNA help. Consider asking an expert for help in setting up a strategy for you. Family history and DNA experts can also advise if DNA testing can help with your particular brick wall and can even help you with the research itself.





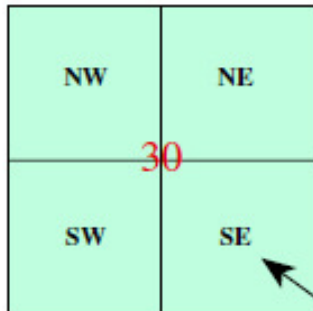
Public Land Survey

The United States Public Land Survey was established by an act of Congress in 1785 in order to dispose of lands in the Western Territory of the new nation. In Alabama, two different surveys were used to subdivide parcels of land. In the northern half of the state, the Huntsville survey's origin was established by the Huntsville Meridian and Base Line. In the southern half of the state, the St. Stephens survey's origin was established by the St. Stephens Meridian and Base Line. The Freeman Line, as noted on the map to the left, is not a base line, but rather where the Huntsville and St. Stephens surveys meet. From the origins, grided lines were established at 6 mile intervals. The east-west lines are called townships and the north-south lines are called ranges. The intersection of the grided lines form rectangles of 36 square miles, also called townships. Each township is subdivided into 36 sections of approximately one square mile, and may be further subdivided into halves, quarters and the like. The same system of subdividing land is used on County Highway Maps produced by the Alabama Department of Transportation and U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangles.

**Henry County, Alabama
Township 6 North, Range 28 East
(36 square miles)**

T7N						
T6N	6	5	4	3	2	1
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	18	17	16	15	14	13
T6N	19	20	21	22	23	24
	30	29	28	27	26	25
T6N	31	32	33	34	35	36
T5N						
	R27E	R28E	R28E	R28E	R28E	R29E

**Henry County, Alabama
Township 6 North, Range 28 East
Section 30
(1 square mile or 640 acres)**



**Henry County, Alabama
Township 6 North, Range 28 East
SE 1/4 of Section 30
(160 acres)**

Mr. Felix H. Massey, an old and respected citizen of this county, died last week at his home in Shadesvalley.

Mr. Benjamin W. Smithson, one of Jefferson County's oldest citizens, died last week at the age of 78 years.

Hon. Chas. A. Seen, Register in Chancery and now a candidate for Associate Judge of the City Court, of Birmingham, was in the city Monday,

Messrs. W. S. McCully, T. R. Fulton, C. B. Rogers, Matt Sapp, Huntington Howell and Chelsea Gwin have returned from Nashville.

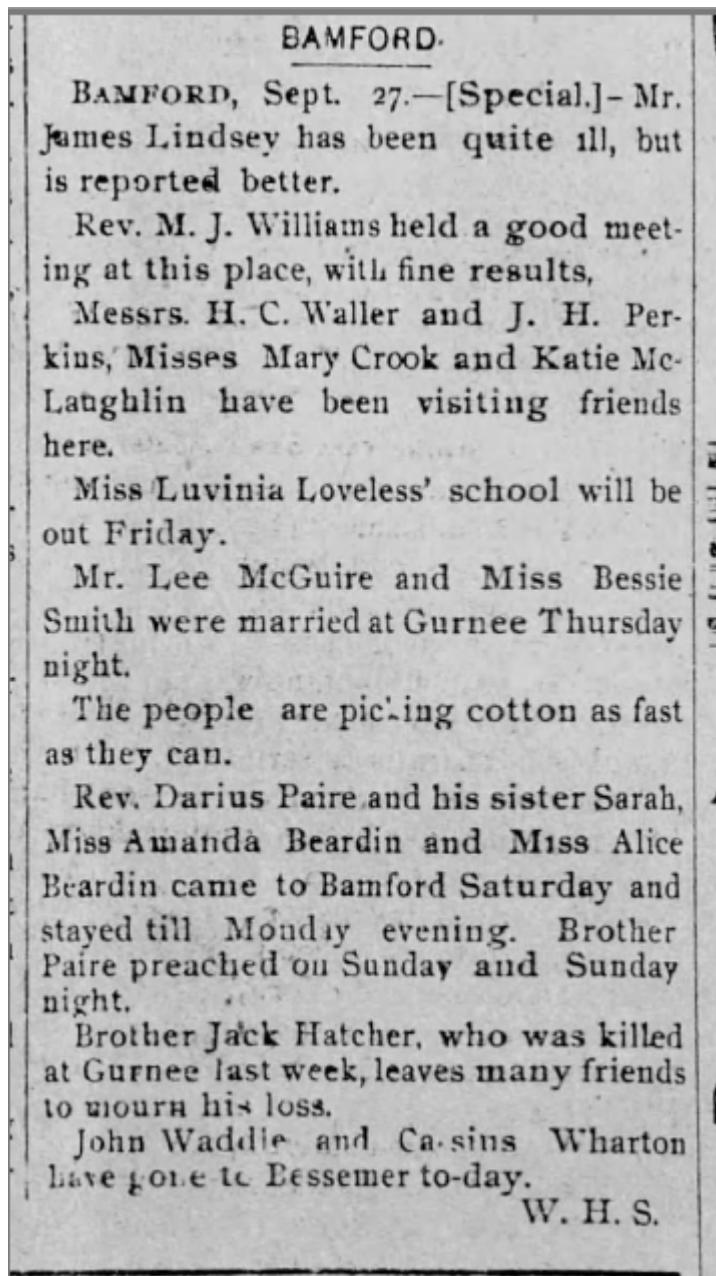
Messrs. J. Hugh Walker and D. B.

The Herald Journal, 27 October 1897

Terminal Station: Birmingham's Great Temple of Travel

From 1909-1969, Terminal Station stood as an icon of Birmingham's boom years. "The Great Temple of Travel," as it was popularly known, welcomed out of town visitors, residents, and immigrants to the Magic City with awe-inspiring grandeur. By the 1960s, automobiles and airlines were the favored mode of transportation, and the station was obsolete. It was demolished in 1969, just days after the last train to depart the station made its final farewell. Vulcan Park and Museum is proud to present Terminal Station: Birmingham's Great Temple of Travel in our Linn Henley Gallery from May 17 through December 2019. The exhibit will explore the in-depth history of Birmingham's Terminal Station in celebration of Alabama's Bicentennial. The exhibit based upon the book *Great Temple of Travel: A Pictorial History of Birmingham's Terminal Station* by Marvin Clemons.





The Herald Journal, 28 Sept 1893

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