



Alabama Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 2

Editor Brenda Briney

Summer 2014

AROUND THE STATE

ALABAMA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING SEMINAR A SUCCESS

The AGS 2014 Spring Seminar was held April 5, 2014. An AGS member agreed to share her thoughts and impressions about this event.

From Carolyn Horton:

“What a beautiful day – trees budding, warm sunshine in the middle of cold and rainy days - but best of all was our speaker, Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*.

“Judy’s two sessions on DNA were extremely easy to understand with the use of colorful slides, colorful handouts with great resource materials listed, and her ability to keep everyone wanting to hear more. In the topic on “Slavery and the Law before the Civil War” she gave an informative talk on the history of slavery beginning with the first slaves arriving in America on a Dutch warship in 1619. Her handout was most helpful about research into the records and laws regarding slavery. She stressed that genealogists deal with sensitive issues all the time in “The Ethical Genealogist”. Being aware of these issues and following the rules of truthfulness, politeness, and respecting the privacy of others was stressed.

“Judy’s lectures were full of entertaining stories about her own family and her own research, even in Alabama. One minute those present were all laughing, then all were listening intently to her suggestions for being a successful family history researcher.

“To best describe the thoughts of the attendees are some of the comments on the evaluations. They ranged from a simple ‘I’m happy’ to ‘Judy Russell was awesome!’ Those who weren’t in attendance missed a treat, not only in learning more about genealogy research but also in learning from a delightful person who made one want to stay for an encore!

“Be sure to subscribe to her daily blog, *The Legal Genealogist*, where she writes articles on family stories, legal issues and terms, and DNA.” [continued on page 2]

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING YOUR NEWSLETTER

Beginning with the next issue, the AGS Newsletter will go electronic.

As a result of the increasing costs of postage and ever changing USPS regulations we will discontinue printing and mailing paper newsletters. You will be notified by email of a PDF version of the newsletter available on the web.

Just as with your postal address, it is important for you to keep us informed of any change in your email address so you will not miss out on future issues of the newsletter. Should you have questions, feel free to write the editor at our Samford PO Box or email: <newsletter@algensoc.org>.

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Website

website: www.algensoc.org

**The Samford University
Library**

Special Collection Department
is the depository for the Society.

**The Alabama Genealogical
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Email the editor
news of meetings,
conferences and projects of
genealogical and historical
societies in Alabama
and adjacent states.
newsletter@algensoc.org

Membership

\$20.00 individual
\$25.00 family
\$15.00 for libraries.

Magazine

Members are encouraged to
submit articles
to the AGS Magazine
www.algensoc.org/magazine

Books for Review

Authors who would like to have
their publications considered for
review should send them to the
Book Review Chairman
in care of the Society.



(photo courtesy of Caroline Horton)

Judy's presentation followed a brief business meeting with reports from AGS President, Yvonne Crumpler, and AGS Treasurer, Bill Wallace. Jim Anderson, the Membership Chairman, received a beautifully framed Certificate of Appreciation for his service to AGS.

AGS mourns the passing:

Martha Stewart Geyer, age 86, of Tuscaloosa, died May 21, 2014. A member of AGS since 1991, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, in 2013. Martha served in many roles for the society. As an avid genealogist, she authored several books on the history of the Stewart, Mays and Geyer families, was an active member of local state and national organizations including the DAR and National Genealogical Society, and was a course instructor at Samford University. While living in Shelby County, she helped establish the North Shelby County Fire and Emergency Medical District, serving as its president for over 20 years. Martha and Jim both worked with the Loose Papers Project to preserve and film probate court documents in Jefferson and Shelby counties.

Raymond Ellis Walker, Jr. (Ray), a long-time member and former treasurer of AGS passed away April 14, 2014. His military service included tours of duty with the US Navy during WWII and the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He earned his Chartered Life Underwriter designation at Samford University and enjoyed a career in the insurance industry. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Alabama Society, the Alabama Genealogical Society's First Families of Alabama, and the American Legion. Friends remember him for his service to AGS and his great sense of humor.

Betty Loy Campbell died March 30, 2014 in Montgomery. She was President of the society from 1994-1996. A retired employee of the Montgomery County Probate Judge's Office, she developed an intense interest in genealogy. She enjoyed researching her ancestors and helping friends discover their family histories.

Our condolences to the Geyer, Walker and Campbell families.

AGS welcomes the following new members:

(as of May 30, 2014)

Terri **Ballard**, Ball Ground GA
Brenda **Dean**, Ramer AL
Mike **Dean**, Ramer AL
Patsy C. **Parmer**, Athens AL
Juanita **Gaston**, Tallahassee FL
Carol A. **Kitchens**, Ranburne AL
Barbara Hodge **Murphy**, Knoxville TN
Beverly McGowan **Norman**, Bessemer AL
Bert **Outlaw**, Pace FL
Andrea **Owiredu**, Lockport NY
Ruth R. **Rosentrater**, Ozark AL
Lina Abney **Waldrop**, Auburn AL
Brenda **Winter**, Athens AL
Justin **Wood**, Moody AL

**Congratulations to these new
First Families of Alabama
Recipients:**

Certificate 385

Robert Jefferson **Coker III**
Issued: 26 March 2014
Ancestor: Jonathan **Ellison**

Certificate 386

Frank Daniel **Williamson**
Issued: 29 Apr 14
Ancestor: Daniel Mobley **Williamson**

Certificate 387

Sarah Parkhurst **Crane**
Issued: 30 May 2014
Ancestor: Ezekiah **Eastland**

WEB SITES RELATED TO ARTICLES IN
THIS NEWSLETTER ARE CLICKABLE AT:
<algensoc.org/newslinks>

The **AGS Fall Seminar** will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014, in Montgomery at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The speaker will be Ann Staley who is widely known as an instructor, consultant, trip leader and a lecturer at local, state and national conferences. The program topics will be announced at a later date. Please check the AGS website later this summer for more information.

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (ADAH)**

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of talks on Alabama History at the Alabama Dept of Archives and History. Visitors are urged to bring their lunches and meet at noon the third Thursday of every month and learn something new about our state's past.

The upcoming programs are as follows:
June 19th "A Blessed Work in a Somber World": selections from *The Hank Williams Reader* by Steve Goodson;
July 17th "Civil War Mobile" by Lonnie Burnett;
August 21st "The Treaty of Fort Jackson" by Kathryn Braund;
September 18th "Bishops, Bourbons, and Big Mules: A History of the Episcopal Church in Alabama" by Barry Vaughn.

Streaming videos of past ArchiTreats presentations can be viewed at <archives.alabama.gov>, by selecting "Multimedia." They can also be viewed on the ADAH YouTube page at <youtube.com/user/alabamaarchives>.

**ALABENTON GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY (ALABGS)**

There are no regular monthly meetings in June, July or August. However, ALABGS is holding a summer workshop August 6, 2014, conducted by Elizabeth Wells on *Pioneer Ancestors: Exploring Traditional and Technological Tools to Find Them*. Go to <rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alabgs/> for further details as they become available.

Regular monthly meetings will resume

September 6, 2014, with a presentation by Tom Mullins, Librarian/Genealogist/Historian, at 1:00 PM in the Alabama Room of the Anniston-Calhoun Co. Public Library. Tom will share with us what he learned at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University. This is always an enjoyable and informative program. For further information, go to rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alabgs/.

AUTAUGA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Autauga Genealogical Society holds no meetings in June or July. There will be a field trip August 17, 2014, to the Confederate Memorial Park in Mountain Creek. Interested parties should meet at the church building. There will a visit to the museum and library. At 2:00 PM On September 21, 2014, Professor James S. Day of University of Montevallo will present "The Cahaba Coal Fields" at the regular meeting place, 131 N. Washington Street, Prattville, Alabama. For further information on either of these events, go to rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alags/page8.html.

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Birmingham Public Library's Central location continues to find ways to serve patrons and accommodate employees as it deals with a broken air conditioner, which could take three more weeks to be repaired. Until repairs can be made, the East building will be open from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Monday through Friday, on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Linn-Henley will be open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Both buildings will be closed Sundays. With the reduced hours for the East Building, patrons will still be able to pick up library holds and check them out from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM at a desk on the first floor of Linn-Henley.

All computer classes regularly held in the Regional Library Computer Center have been cancelled until further notice. Patrons are encouraged to check out computer classes at Springville Road and Five Points West libraries.

The Friends Bookstore will be open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. "Gifts of a Wordsmith", a free adult poetry workshop held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM has been moved to Homewood Library, 1721 Oxmoor Road, until the air conditioner is fixed. All downtown public computers will be available from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Monday through Saturday. For hours and locations of other Birmingham libraries, go to bplonline.org/locations.

HUNTSVILLE GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING SOCIETY (HGCS)

Meetings will be held at the Huntsville Main Public Library Auditorium located at 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, Alabama, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Parts of the HGCS general monthly meetings are special programs on a wide range of genealogy related areas emphasizing computer technology and software. These programs are designed to enhance overall genealogy knowledge using computer technology. The programs are presented by either an invited guest or a HGCS member. Meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome with no obligation to join. The June 16 meeting will feature Bob Doherty, President of the TV chapter of AL SAR, presenting "Crime & Punishment in Colonial America."

The HGCS Picnic at Green Mountain will be July 21.

Harvey Cotton, of the HSV Botanical Gardens< will present "Gardens our Ancestors Grew" August 18. The September meeting will be announced later. Go to hgcsociety.org for further details as they become available.

WALLACE STATE

Bob Davis, director of the Genealogy Program of Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, will be speaking in several venues this summer. June 10 he will be at the Boaz Public Library at 6:00 PM talking on Civil War research and he will be at the Nichols Library

(Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society) in Gadsden at 1:00 PM speaking on the Andersonville Confederate prison. Admission for both these appearances is free.

The Augusta (Georgia) Genealogical Society will have its annual homecoming and he will be one of the speakers, talking on "bottom of the barrel research", nineteenth century paper chases, and libraries and archives of the South of special research value. For further information as it becomes available, check their website <augustagensociety.org/>.

The Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society and Edgefield Civic League are hosting the third annual "Southern Studies Showcase" in Edgefield, South Carolina, September 19 and 20, 2014. Genealogical and historical societies from all over South Carolina and parts of Georgia are being invited to participate in this two-day event. Bob will be speaking on the secret history of John Lewis Gervais' plantation. Further information will be available at <oedgs.org/>.

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society (TVGS)

The summer quarterly meeting will be held Thursday, July 24, 2014, at 7:00 PM in the Huntsville Public Library. It will be an antiques road show with George Marchelos who teaches American and European history, and collects and appraises antiques and collectibles. His training as a historian has given him an enormous advantage in the realm of appraising antiques, so that he not only knows what the item is but also its social and historical significance. In addition to graduate degrees in history and management, he is a graduate of the Ashford Antiques Institute and is a life member of both the American Philatelic Society and American Numismatic Association. For further information go to their website at <tvgs.org/> and click on the "Events" button on the left side of the screen.

AROUND THE REGION

GENEALOGY JAMBOREE

The 4th annual Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Day will be held in the historic town of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, June 12 - 14, 2014. Exhibitors and speakers are free to the public. There is free parking at the town of Cumberland. Further information is available at <genealogyjamboree.us/>.

Tennessee Genealogical Society (TNGS)

Meet General Ulysses S. Grant, authentically portrayed by Dr. E. C. Fields Saturday, June 21, 2014, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the TNGS Center, part of the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center near Memphis. Dr. E. C. "Curt" Fields is a retired educator whose passion and love of the Civil War era in American History led him to become a student himself. Dr. Fields is a Living History Demonstrator, and his portrayal of General Grant is uniquely realistic, allowing him to speak to his audience in a "first person" manner. and to take questions from the audience. No registration is required for this program. The program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Carla Maitland via email (carla@tngs.org) or call the TNGS Center (901-754-4300).

NATIONAL NEWS

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (FGS)

The 2014 FGS Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, August 27-30, 2014. The local co-hosts are the Texas State Genealogical Society and the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. Together we will continue our tradition of providing exceptional educational opportunities for genealogists from across the nation and beyond. Go to <fgsconference.org/> to register and for further information.

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