

ROOTS and BRANCHES

**Quarterly Publication
of
The Night Group of
The Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society**



**Volume XXI I, Issue 4, October 2001
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Tuscaloosa, AL**

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2001 Membership dues: \$15 for single local member; \$25 for local family member; and \$25 for remote member. Make checks payable to: NGTGS.

Mail to: Carolyn McGee, NGTGS Treasurer, P. O. Box 020802, Tuscaloosa, AL. 35402.

Monthly meeting are held at 7 p.m. the first Thursday night of each month in the Rotary Room, upstairs at the Tuscaloosa County Public Library on River Road. Visitors and prospective members are welcome at all times and their participation in our projects is needed and desired. The only requirement is the expression of a desire to enhance their genealogical and historical knowledge.

Roots and Branches, our quarterly publication, is published in January, April, July, and October of each year. Our *NGTGS Newsletter* is published in February, March, May, June, August, September, November, and December of each year, the months when our quarterly publication is not published. Publication dates may vary based on amount of material submitted for publication. *Roots and Branches* and the *NGTGS Newsletter* are available at regular monthly meeting to local members and are mailed to remote members. We are actively engaged in swapping quarterly publications with other genealogical and historical societies and welcome new swap partners.

Genealogical and historical data with connections to Tuscaloosa County and/or Alabama are solicited for possible inclusion in our quarterly and monthly publications. Contact: Brenda Thomas, by phone at (205) 553-1578 or by e-mail at stripestus@aol.com or send to P.O. Box 020802, Tuscaloosa, AL 35402

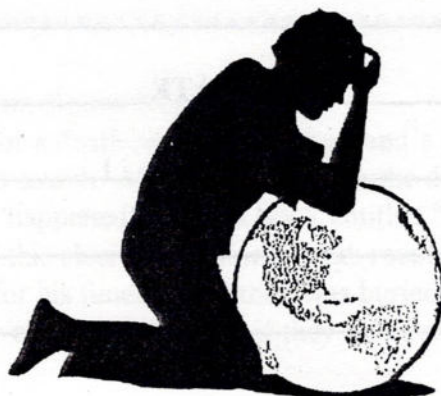
From time to time committees are established for various purpose and members are encouraged to participate in one or more of these groups. The success of our society is dependent on the active participation in one of these groups.

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Night Group of The Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

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PRAY FOR OUR NATION



NIGHT GROUP TUSCALOOSA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
**2001 MEMBERSHIP
ADDITIONS**

CHANNELL, Katie B.	P O Box 20702, Tuscaloosa, AL. 35402-0702	752-6452
SHUMAKER, Thomas P.	2416 Trenton Drive, N., Tuscaloosa, AL. 35406-1625	758-4934
SHUMAKER, Mildred	2416 Trenton Drive, N., Tuscaloosa, Al. 35406-1625 E-mail: Tomillie@webtv.net	758-4934

**NGTGS 2001
Annual Membership/Renewal Form**

Dues are \$15.00 Single; \$25.00 Family and \$25.00 Remote Member

Make checks payable to **NGTGS** and return this form and your check to:

**Carolyn McGee
P. O Box 020802
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-0802**

NAME _____ Amount Enclosed _____.

ADDRESS _____.

_____.

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____.

TELEPHONE () _____ FAX() _____.

E-MAIL _____.

SURNAMES _____.

_____.

QUERIES

1st Query: Received by mail.

Hello, my name is Fayn Foster McMillan and I found my great grandfather, Washington Foster in the 1860 Tuscaloosa county census; Ln.22-Hn134-Fn.144-Reel#3653-25-page#611. It list a whole family and I can't tell if he was married. I suspect he was for he marries in AL. He moved to Tippa county, MS. later in 1860. He joined company I CSA in Iuka and was killed at Donaldsonville. His wife died in child birth. So you see I only have this census to help me find her name. His brother lived in Copiah county, MS. But I can't find any mention of my grandfather.

Please reply to Fayn F. McMillan, R. R. 1, Box 603, Jasper, TX. 75951

2nd Query: Received by E-mail.

Hello,

My name is Sandra and I live in the southern part of Texas. I have been doing research on my ggggrandparents that lived in Tuscaloosa and then in Fayette Co. Al about 1820's till 1860. I have a centennial magazine in my library that listed people that were postmasters, 1826-1974 in Fayette Co.. I found several of my relatives listed under the SHEFFIELD POST OFFICE. Would you happen to know what area of Fayette Co. that would be in? I have tried the Fayette Co. archives and the Ala. archives, but find nothing about SHEFFIELD area.

My ggggrandparents were TROY and ADALINE GRIFFIN -Sheffield 1869. Their son WILLIAM GRIFFIN -Sheffield-1851.. ADALINE GRIFFIN first husband was MICHAEL SHEPHERD. My gggrandfather was MICHAEL SHEPHERD GRIFFIN. I also find other names that married into our family listed in Sheffield: HENRY W. COLE-1855 & 1856, LITTLETON COLE-1857. FREEMAN, JAMES H 1855, and FRRMAN, JOSIAH H. -1847. My other set of ggggrandparents were OANNA WILLINGHAM and GEORGE A. ROBERTSON. They lived in Fayette County 1850 census. They had 4 children : John A, Henry H, Frances Lafayette, and Mary Ann. On the 1950 census their last name is spelled ROBINSON. In Tuscaloosa 1838, they were married with the name spelled ROBERTSON. I would be appreciative if you can help me find the area of Fayette Co. they lived in. That might help me find some of the ROBERTSONS that was part of George's family. I have been searching for 3 years but I am at a standstill. GEORGE AND ROANNA came to Texas (1860 census) and all 3 boys were killed in the civil war. Mary Ann my gggrandmother, died in childbirth and the ROBERTSONS raised the girls that belonged to Mary Ann. So it has been difficult to get information on the family. Thank you for your time and any information you might have on Sheffield.

Sandra

Reply to: rly-xb04.mx.aol.com

QUERIES continued

3rd Query: Received by E-mail

My roll call folks that I am researching in the Moore's Bridge area of Tuscaloosa Co. are:

ROBERTSON, William who died in 1855 and had the following sons and daughters:

ROBERTSON, Washington who married in 1834 Louisa WATERS/WATTERS/WALTERS (born 1822 in NC and died 1887 in AR) and by 1855 Washington was deceased and in 1860 his widow and children lived in Hot Spring Co., Arkansas.

ROBERTSON, Benjamin - lived in the Tuscaloosa AL area in 1855.

ROBERTSON, James - lived in the Tuscaloosa AL area in 1855.

ROBERTSON, Thomas - lived in the Tuscaloosa AL area in 1855.

ROBERTSON, John - lived in Arkansas in 1855.

ROBERTSON, Sarah Francis who married William PUGH, Jr. shortly before 1850 and lived in the Tuscaloosa area.

ROBERTSON, Mary - still single in 1855 and lived in Tuscaloosa.

When William died in 1855 his wife was a woman by the name of Frances, but I suspect that she is not the mother of the children. If there is anyone researching any of these folks or is even researching in the Moore's Bridge area I would love to hear from you.

Keeping my fingers crossed that some one connects with these folks!

Jan, in Oregon

Send comments to cgerdau@uronramp.net

QUERIES NEEDED

Queries to this publication are needed. There is no charge for queries to members of the organization. Queries also will be included at no charge if there is a connection to someone who has resided in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Please send your queries to: Brenda Thomas, P.O. Box 020802, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-0802 or stripestus@aol.com.

OF INTEREST

Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc.

Fall Seminar, October 20, 2001

Jyl Hardy

or

Sara Lindsey, Publicity Chairman

Write or E-mail for additional information:

E-mail: jylhardy@bellsouth.net

E-mail: saralindsey1@juno.com

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FORM

Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc.

A SEMINAR ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Alabama State Capitol Auditorium – Montgomery, Alabama
Saturday, October 20, 2001

CUTOFF DATE is Wednesday, October 10, 2001 for the box lunch and inclusion in the surname directory. Registrants may register later, even as walk-ins, but will not receive the box lunch and will not have their ancestor information in the surname directory.

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30	Registration & Refreshments	12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (Box Lunch provided for those who registered by Oct. 10th)
9:30 – 10:00	AGS Business Meeting	1:15 – 2:15	"The Very Worst Road" – Jeff Benton
10:00 – 11:00	"The Federal Road" – Dr. Craig Mann	2:15 – 2:30	Break
11:00 – 11:15	Break	2:30 – 3:30	"The Huntsville Road" – James Walker
11:15 – 12:15	"Along the Federal Road" – Mark Dauber	3:30	AWARD DOOR PRIZES* & ADJOURNMENT
12:15	DOOR PRIZE DRAWING*		

*MUST BE PRESENT AT DRAWING TO WIN DOOR PRIZE

REGISTRATION FORM

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ALABAMA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.
MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO: AGS TREASURER, P.O. BOX 26331, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35260-0331

Register me for: Seminar _____ \$20.00 (Check enclosed)
Box Lunch? (included & available only if registered by Oct. 10): Yes _____ No _____

Optional: I am enclosing membership dues also (individual \$20, family \$25) Renewal _____ New Member _____

BOOK SALES: SALES ROOM OPEN 9:00 – 3:30

Yes, please reserve me _____ VENDOR tables. Limited number of tables available. Tables must be reserved as soon as feasible to insure availability.

Please complete the following for Name Badge and Attendee List

CAUTION – Type or Print legibly as the booklet may be made by using the "cut and paste" technique – CAUTION
Ancestor Information (six maximum) Name, County, State (or Country) and dates of birth and death.

Name _____ E-Mail _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ANCESTOR'S NAME

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____

You are urged to register as early as feasible and to submit ancestor information including Name, County, State (or Country) and dates of birth and death. The Surname Directory needs your input and helps you contact others researching your lines.

Use of this form not necessary if requested information and check remitted.

Alabama Genealogical Society

Presents

“And They Came to Alabama”

Saturday, October 20, 2001

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Alabama State Capitol Auditorium

Montgomery, Alabama



An excellent panel of knowledgeable speakers will present a program on the two primary overland routes used by pioneers to move into the area now known as Alabama.

The Federal Road was a major influence in the settlement of the Mississippi Territory during the period between the Louisiana Purchase and the removal of the Creek Indians. In 1806 a horsepath for postal riders through a malaria-infested wilderness was opened through the Creek Nation, stretching from middle Georgia to coastal Alabama. It was widened into a military road starting in 1811 in anticipation of the War of 1812, running from Fort Wilkinson near Milledgeville, GA to Fort Stoddert at the Mount Vernon Landing on the Mobile River, just east of present day Mount Vernon, AL. The Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers and directly contributed to the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and 1820.

The Huntsville Road was the main thoroughfare for settlers coming from the Tennessee Valley area into Alabama, running from Huntsville through Blountsville, Jonesborough and Bucksville into Tuscaloosa.

The three speakers on the Federal Road are being provided by Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery, Inc., which manages a collection of 40 restored 19th century buildings in Montgomery.

Dr. Craig Mann has a Master's and a Doctor's degree in New Testament from the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He has been employed for the past four years by Landmarks Foundation as Assistant Curator for Living History in Old Alabama Town in Montgomery. Craig is dedicated to the study of "The Federal Road" and his many talents and skills include blacksmithing, 19th century musicology, and leather crafting.

Mark Dauber for the past fifteen years has been photographing the Federal Road, and has developed an overwhelmingly beautiful slide show with exciting descriptions of and comments on the sights and sounds he has seen and heard in his adventures "Along the Federal Road". Mark is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is currently working on a documentary video on the Federal Road.

Jeffrey C. Benton is a retired Air Force Colonel who has a Master's degree in English from Auburn University. He has recently published "The Very Worst Road" which consists of essays written by travelers on the Federal Road in the 1820's and 1830's. Jeff's talk will focus on these people and their observations of life along what one referred to "as the very worst road" he had ever traveled.

James H. Walker, Jr. has studied the Huntsville Road that his ancestors followed from the Tennessee Valley area down to Big Sandy Creek in southwestern Tuscaloosa County. He has written numerous books about people and events along this road, and an early book about cemeteries along the Huntsville Road has helped many people locate some ancestors. Other publications include "Roupes Valley", a history of the pioneer settlement of a valley in Alabama often called "the garden spot of America", "Those Gallant Men of the 28th Alabama Confederate Infantry Regiment", "A Cheerful Sadness" about life in the South during reconstruction, and "The Struggle and The Joy", an American coal mining town in Piper, AL.

See reverse side for Registration Information

LOOSE PAPER PROJECT

If you are interested in helping with the 'Loose Paper Project' please fill out and give the following form to or mail to: Brenda Thomas, P. O. Box 70072, Tuscaloosa, AL. 35407. This project is ready to move forward we are just waiting for you and ANY help you can offer.

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX () _____

DAY(S) OF WEEK BEST FOR YOU _____

HOURS OF DAY BEST FOR YOU _____

I WOULD INTERESTED IN LEADING GROUP _____ WORKING WITH GROUP _____

We have made progress in getting this project started. We have met with Judge Hardy McCollum and Doris Turner. We are waiting on a room assignment to get started. Tom Turley from The Alabama Archives and History Department, will meet with us as soon as we get our room assignment. We already have some of the supplies that are needed to get started. We will contact those that expressed interest as soon as all of the details are worked out.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

The main purpose for doing your personal family history is to preserve a permanent and accurate record for your descendants, whether that is your children, grandchildren or a distant relation. This is a way for you to leave your mark on history. We have all seen and studied personal histories of famous persons, yet the ones that are always in the background have been looked over. This is the opportunity for you to let your family live forever. Just remember that the main objectives is to be **ACCURATE**. This is not a story to entertain, although it usually does, it is a store of facts. Remember facts are facts and fiction is something invented by the imagination.

PLACES TO FIND INFORMATION

As you begin your journey you will visit family members, libraries, archives, courthouses, cemeteries, churches, and other public record offices. Your first thoughts of recording your family history is to set up and maintain a good record-keeping system. This will help you from getting overwhelmed by the amount of paper work that will begin to mount.

There are printed forms to help keep track of your progress. If you have use of a computer there are many genealogical programs to help keep you on the right track. If you choose to do a hand written history remember to keep your notes neat and in order. It is critical to link every fact entry to a source or origin. ALWAYS - ALWAYS start with a source log. Some of the sources you use may be as follows:

- 1 **Memory and Observations** - These are personal yet vulnerable to time, so record as soon as possible.
- 2 **Family Members** - Interview family members, they always have stories to tell, as well as, written records such as family Bibles, military records and metals, baptismal certificates, deeds, birth and death certificates, immigration papers, photographs.
- 3 **Family Reunions** - This is where you can get the information on the present family. This is very valuable as it is not readily available from public records. Extended family can also get you in touch with other extended family that may have already done family work they are willing to share.
- 4 **Public Library** - Most county libraries have a genealogy area. They all offer different resources to help you in your search. They have printed and microfilmed records, as well as, newspapers, city directories, books, etc. Most county libraries concentrate on their own locality. Many also have vertical files where individuals contribute their family information to share.

Tuscaloosa Public Library, 1801 River Road, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 345-5820

continued from page 8 Places to Find Information

- 5 **Archives** - State and Regional - Printed and microfilmed records from many areas. They have a wide variety of records for many cities, states and international locations. They have professionals that are helpful in letting you know what is available and where it can be found.
Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3601 334 242-4435.
- 6 **LDS Library** - Family History Center - The LDS church has it's main library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since it's founding in 1894 the LDS church has acquired and preserved genealogical data in many forms from within the United States of America and many other foreign countries. They have hundreds of millions of vital records on deceased individuals. They have many public records from all over the world on microfilm.
Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints, Family History Center, 2015 3rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406 758-4820
- 7 **County Court Houses** - Offers wills, land deeds, marriage license, divorce petitions, adoption, estate, chancery, bankruptcy, probate, civil, criminal and misc. court records. These and many more records are found in bound volumes, filed papers, loose paper or case files.
Tuscaloosa County Court House, 714 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 349-3870
- 8 **Cemeteries** - This is where you can find birth and death dates, military and membership association. Sometimes you can find family members that may have been omitted from other resources.
- 9 **Health Department** - Death Certificates. It's important to know cause of death in order to make a health genealogical record for future generations. The certificate can, but doesn't always have vital information. Tuscaloosa County Health Department, 1101 Jackson Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 345-4131.
- 10 **Churches** - Depending on the denomination you can find baptismal, membership, marriage, death certificates, etc.

The above list is intended to give a few ideas for getting started on your family history. By no means are these the only areas to search. Now that you have places to look let me give you a few ideas of things to search.

WRITTEN INFORMATION

- 1 **Census Records** - Census indexes and actual original census images can be found on CD-ROM's from several computer software companies, as well as, microfilm/fiche resources at libraries and the LDS Family History Library.
- 2 **Church Records** - Church information differs with each denomination and location. Some records from foreign locations can be found on CD-ROM's, the Internet, books, and/or microfilm/fiche which can be found at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library. You can usually get access to original records when you know the actual church.
- 3 **Land Records** - Original records can be viewed at a court house where the records were filed or from CD-ROM's, the Internet, microfilm/fiche, books, and/or at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library. You may also find original deeds or grants in personal family papers.
- 4 **Military Records** - Many people keep and pass down original military records and information. But this information can be found on CD-ROM's, the Internet, books, and/or microfilm/fiche which can be found at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library.
- 5 **Newspaper** - Most information from newspapers can be found on CD-ROM's, the Internet, books, and/or microfilm/fiche which can be found at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library.
- 6 **Vital Records** - This includes birth, marriage, and death records. You can get some of this information from the local health department, on CD-ROM's, the Internet, books, and/or microfilm/fiche which can be found at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library.
- 7 **City Directories** - This is helpful in finding address, occupations, and other family members. These are usually found in public libraries.
- 8 **Immigration Records** - This includes ship passenger lists, immigration papers, naturalization abstracts and indexes. Again these records can be found on CD-ROM's, the Internet, books, and/or microfilm/fiche which can be found at public libraries, state or regional archives, or LDS Family History Library.

Now you have some of the where and what's to look for you need the forms to keep all your information. Some forms you may want are: Pedigree Charts; Family Group Sheets; Research Logs; Lineage Charts; Correspondence Logs;

TIPS FOR GENEALOGIST

From Ancestry.com

We all wish our ancestors had passed down journals or autobiography during the Civil War, WW I and WWII. I am sure back then they felt their lives were nothing special but we would loved to have a daily account of the time. I am sure that each of us feel no one wants to know about our daily activities but the past tells us we are wrong. Start recording your daily appointments, birthdays, anniversaries, work schedules, children's activities, etc. in a daily appointment book. Save these appointment books and you will be surprised after several years that you can write an autobiography to pass down to your children or grandchildren by simply going through these old appointment books.

.....

From Ancestry.com

When looking through newspaper films for obituaries take time to look for a column in most rural areas that have gossip items. Information from columns such as this add human interest and describe our ancestors everyday life. They have who visited who from where, how they may have been related, and they often mentioned weather and crop conditions. Just think how much character this would add to you research.

.....

Bounty Land Records For Non-Military Ancestors from Larry Smith

In trying to find an ancestor, I almost overlooked the bounty land record in my state. I knew my ancestor was not in the military, but low and behold his name was listed as a recipient of bounty land inherited from an older brother. Also listed were other siblings of which I had no knowledge. They had all been orphaned at an early age.

.....

Transient Death Records from Donna Rogers

After months of searching for a death record of my husband's great-grandfather, I went to our county clerks office one last time to search. After going through the death records index I still hadn't found his death certificate. I just "happened" to see a book entitled "transient death records." I looked in that book and there I found this elusive ancestor's death record. He had died in one county, was brought to another county for his funeral, and then was buried in still a different county. So be sure and check with your county clerks and find out if they do have a transient death record index.

FYI

ELLIS ISLAND CLOSED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE

Ancestry.com has received word that Ellis Island will be closed until further notice and even mail service to the island has been halted. We will update you on the status as soon as we hear of any developments.

When you are making out wills remember to make sure that there are specific instructions as to what you want done with your research work. Just as your jewelry is valuable so is your research to the right person.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

"ANCESTORS 2" is a thirteen part series that will aid those interested in genealogical research. Each session will include a short video program followed by a panel discussion with questions and answers. Dr. Elizabeth Shown-Mills was involved in the making of this series and we are fortunate to have her here in our society to guide us through our discussions. We can all benefit from her knowledge in genealogy.

PROGRAM TOPICS

October 4, 2001 -	Records At Risk
October 18, 2001 -	Family Records
November 1, 2001 -	Complied Records
November 15, 2001 -	Genealogy and Technology
December 6, 2001 -	Vital Records
December 20, 2001 -	Religious Records
January 3, 2001 -	Cemetery Records
January 17, 2001 -	Census Records
February 7, 2001 -	Military Records
February 21, 2001 -	Newspaper
March 7, 2001 -	Probate Records
March 15, 2001 -	Immigration Records
April 4, 2001 -	Writing a Family History

WEB SITES

Alabama Department of Archives and History

<http://www.Archives.state.al.us>

Book and Software Information

www.genealogybookstore.com

Genealogy Resources on the Internet

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/%7Ecgaunt/gen-int1.html>

Helm's Genealogy Toolbox

<http://ux1.cso.unuc.edu/~al-helm/genealogy.html>

National Genealogical Society

www.ngsgenealogy.org

National Genealogical Society - Home Page

<http://genealogy.org/NGS/>

The Carolina Herald and Newsletter

www.scgen.org

TREASURE MAPS - The "How-to" Genealogy Site

<http://www.firstct.com/fv/tmaps.html>

Yahoo's Genealogy Page

<http://www.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/Genealogy/>

Cyndi Howells of Cyndi's List

www.cyndislist.com

Origins Network

www.origins.net

Night Group Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society
P O Box 020802
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35402-0802

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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