



THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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www.birminghamgenealogy.org

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

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March 10, 2008

General Meeting for March: The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2008 on the third floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

DON'T FORGET REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP BEGIN AT 1:30!

The program for March: Please join us as Catherine Browne, a resident of Avondale for almost 50 years, discusses her recently published book, "A History of Avondale." Avondale, once a city of its own, is now broken up into at least three Birmingham city neighborhoods - South Avondale, East Avondale and North Avondale. Mrs. Browne has been compiling data about the area along with that of the Forest Park neighborhood since the early 1970s while leading a committee to research listing Forest Park on the National Register of Historic Places. She has also written a history book about Forest Park in the early 1990s, but by then she also had substantial information on Avondale. The research yielded stories about mounds built by American Indians in what was then a rural area they referred to as King's Spring and Big Spring - the area is near Sloss Furnace. Browne's research unearthed stories about Avondale Mills, a school called Avondale School that served the black community of Taylor Hill, and Avondale Park, the site of the city's zoo.

Many thanks to Mary Taylor who filled in at the last minute as program speaker at the February meeting!

Research & Genealogical Tips: Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research

The newspapers of a community chronicle the successes, failures, and everyday lives of the people who live there. To the family historian, newspapers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be especially helpful because of their abundance of personal news and social items. Besides descriptions of occurrences within the community, they also include local angles to national, regional, and state events. Articles of genealogical importance that can be found through newspaper research include much more than brief birth, marriage and death notices. Other items may include detail obituaries; memorials published on the anniversary of an individual's death; social items (such as notices of visitors from out of town, illnesses, community events, and notices of residents who have moved to other locations); legal articles, (including probate notices, divorce cases, and advertisements of sherriffs' sales); news stories in which an ancestor played a role (such as accidents, explosions, fires, tornadoes or other disasters); advertisements (which often include the name of the shop proprietor. (Source: Genealogy Department, Allen County Public Library).



Scott A. Martin