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## Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Newsletter

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### Events

#### August 11

The Southern Genealogists Exchange Society's August meeting will consist of a field trip to the Genealogy Collection of the Jacksonville Public Library's Main Library, 303 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, FL. The field trip will feature a tour of the Florida and Genealogy Collections and a hands-on computer instruction session for the HeritageQuest database. For those desiring to car pool, meet at the SGENS Library at 9:30 AM. Others, driving independently, meet at 9:50 A.M. in the entrance lobby by Shelby's. Following the presentation, dutch treat lunch at Shelby's Cafe. For additional questions call SGENS at (904) 778-1000 or e-mail: [publicity@sgesjax.com](mailto:publicity@sgesjax.com).

#### August 18

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on August 18, 2007, at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd St., Jacksonville, FL. Our topic, "Family Researchers Need Disaster Preparednes; Are You Ready?" Laura Minor from the Jacksonville Public Library will discuss plans used by the the library to protect their important collections from disasters; additionally Grace Moran will tell of her devasating fire and the loss of not only treasured items but the loss of much of her

genealogical research. With weather permitting, we will have a television meteorologist discussing valuable suggestions on how to prepare for the hurricane season. For further information, please contact Mary Chauncey at (904) 781-9300.

## **New Materials**

Georgia Genealogical Research- Schweitzer, G.

Publisher: Genealogical Sources Unltd

Pub Date: 06/01/1987

ISBN: 0913857106

[Check library catalog](#)

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Georgians : Genealogies of Pioneer Families- Austen, Jeanette H.

Publisher: Genealogical Pub Co

Pub Date: 06/01/1984

ISBN: 0806310812

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## **Who Are the Melungeons?**

If your Southern family roots are mainly from the Cumberland Gap area of central Appalachia, eastern Tennessee, southwestern Virginia, and eastern Kentucky, you could be Melungeon. Who are these people? Where did they come from?

In the isolated areas of the rural South, family groups identified as being physically distinct from their neighbors –darker skin, dark hair and eyes –although described as being Caucasian in appearance, eyes ranging from black to gray, high cheekbones, and thin lips, were labeled with the derogatory term of Melungeon, and considered to be a non-white race. In 1830, the state of North Carolina declared Melungeons to be “free persons of color”.

Descriptions varied from observer to observer. There was a great controversy that still exists today among the descendants of the Melungeon families, as to what racial and/or ethnic mix of peoples came together to become Melungeons. Even the original meaning of the word Melungeon is obscure, but not complementary. Some historians say they were descendants of freed slaves, indentured Europeans, West Africans, and Native Americans –North American, Caribbean, Central and South American. Various historians claim Melungeon origins to be those descended from shipwrecked sailors and Native Americans, descendants of the “Lost Colony” of Roanoke Island and Native Americans,

Spanish Moors and Jews fleeing the Inquisition, one of the Lost Tribes of Israel, Greeks, Portuguese, or ancient Carthaginians.

Some common family Melungeon names were and are today: Mullins, Kennedy, Bennett, Nash, Hopkins, Stanley, Rose, Short, Tolliver, Carter, and Swindall. There are theories that Daniel Boone, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis and other notables were of Melungeon descent.

Any one of these theories, or all of them, would then validate Melungeons as the most American of Americans –the original melting pot people.

Want to know more? Jacksonville Public Library has the following books about Melungeons:

The Melungeons : the resurrection of a proud people : an untold story of ethnic cleansing in America- by N. Brent Kennedy with Robyn Vaughan Kennedy

Publisher: Mercer University Press

Pub Date: 06/01/1994

ISBN: 086554445X

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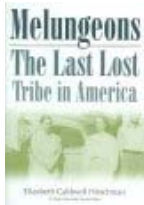
Melungeons : the last lost tribe in America- by Elizabeth C. Hirschman

Publisher: Mercer University Press

Pub Date: 11/01/2004

ISBN: 0865549206

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## Spotlight on the Collection: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index

There are so many print and online sources today for finding our immigrant ancestors that the inclination may be to overlook a somewhat labor intensive resource, such as the multi-volume index of records, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. But that would be a mistake.

The *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, more popularly know as "Filby's," in recognition of P. William Filby, the former director of the Maryland Historical Society,

was first published in 1981. It started as a three volume index “to passengers who arrived in North America or the West Indies in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries” and “whose names appear in a broad collection of published passenger lists or naturalization records.” Each year following the original 1981 publishing, a supplemental volume has been published, adding names from newly discovered sources. Each supplement is arranged as a stand-alone index and is not integrated into each previous year’s supplement. Today, with the publication of the 2007 supplement, close to 5 million names have been indexed.

Prior to 1820, most ships did not keep documentation of passengers. The few records that were created were normally kept at the port of arrival. But as there was no central depository for these records, many have been lost or destroyed. Those that survived have been scattered throughout libraries, historical societies, museums, and a variety of other repositories; some official, some private. Filby’s indexes information from all possible sources, not only surviving passenger records, but letters, diaries, naturalization records and more.

There are two main types of citations: those listing names of immigrants appear in the main body or index portion, and bibliographic citations, which appear in the “Bibliography of Sources Indexed” section. Indexed citations generally contain name, age, place (port through which the individual immigrated), year of arrival or first appearance in public record, code that refers to source, page number of source cited, and accompanying family members. The bibliographic citation section generally lists name, source of citation including author, editor, or compiler, and full source citation information.

Although locating the indexed sources may seem daunting at first, Jacksonville Public Library's Special Collections staff can help you. Many of these sources are available in the library - in print, on microfilm, and via library databases or the World Wide Web. Others can be obtained via Interlibrary Loan or rented from the Family History Library.

With such a rich compilation of indexed records available, that elusive immigrant ancestor may just be more easily discovered than previously thought.

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