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Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Newsletter

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Events

October 13

On Saturday, October 13 at 10:30 a.m., Ann Staley will present *Genealogical Research and the Internet* at the Regency Square Branch Library, 9900 Regency Square Blvd. For more information, please call 726-5142.

October 13

The Southern Genealogists Exchange Society will hold their monthly meeting at the Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road on Saturday, October 13 at 10:15 a.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. The speaker for October is Lyn Corley addressing *The Jean Ribault Celebration* and why we should celebrate. Ms. Corley is a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society and serves on the Board of Directors. For more information contact the SGEs library at 778-1000 or E-mail: President@sgesjax.com

October 17

Probate records can be a rich source for information concerning birth, deaths and relationships. On Wednesday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m., Ann Staley will present *"Will" They be There?: Using Probate Records* at the Main Library, 303 N. Ocean Street. She will discuss types of probate records, problems associated with the records and sources for finding these records. For more information, call 630-2409.

October 20

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting October 20, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd St. Their speaker will be Mr. Claude W. Bass, III, who has operated the Clay County Archives and Historical Resource Center for the past seven years. His topic will be *The People of and Visitors to Clay County, 1800's till....* For additional information, please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

New Materials

Recording your family history : a guide to preserving oral history with videotape, audiotape, suggested topics and questions, interview techniques- William Fletcher

Publisher: Ten Speed Press

ISBN: 0898153247

[Check library catalog](#)

Explains how to conduct an audio or video interview with an elderly relative or friend, offers advice on recording equipment, and suggests questions

Spotlight on the Collection: 1890 U.S. Federal Census Fragments

Through a series of unfortunate events beginning at 5:00 in the afternoon of January 10, 1921 and ending in a tragic decision made in 1933, the majority of the 1890 Federal Population Census was destroyed.

On that afternoon in 1921, fireman James Foster noticed smoke coming into the file room of the Commerce Building. The fire department was called. Through intense smoke, firemen poured streams of water into the building until 10:30 p.m., flooding the cellar. With the blaze extinguished, the chief clerk opened windows to let out the smoke. The next morning, ankle-deep water was found to have soaked some earlier and later census schedules. Extensive damage to the 1890 census was reported, with an estimated 25% destroyed and 50% of the remainder damaged by water, smoke, and fire.

In 1932, in accordance with federal records procedures at the time, a list of papers no longer necessary for current business and scheduled for destruction was sent to the Librarian of Congress. The Librarian identified no records as permanent, the list was sent forward, and Congress authorized destruction on February 21, 1933. The 1890 census papers were finally destroyed in 1935.

In 1942, the National Archives accessioned a damaged bundle of surviving Illinois schedules found during a Census Bureau move. At the time, they were believed to be the only surviving fragments. In 1953, the Archives accessioned an additional set of fragments. These sets are from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New

York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia. In all, the records of only 6,160 of the 62,979,766 people enumerated survived the fire. These *1890 U.S. Federal Census Fragments* can be searched in the *Ancestry Library Edition* database available at all Jacksonville Public Library locations.

Customer Corner

Jacksonville Public Library's Genealogy newsletter is distributed to over 200 people in the Jacksonville area each month. Customer Corner is your forum to share news that is of interest to Jacksonville's genealogical community. Have you learned something new at a conference? Have you found something particularly interesting in your genealogical research? Have you hit a brick wall and want to know if there are others who may have information about the family you are researching? Please send your submissions to lminor@coj.net.

Due to a growth in membership, the Southern Genealogists Exchange Society has announced they will acquire a meeting place outside the SGES library facility and they will rotate meetings throughout the city. This will give more exposure within the city and make it equally convenient for all members to attend meetings. Now the SGES will come to you! The first meeting place of rotation is the Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road. Beginning October, SGES meetings will be held at the Mandarin Branch Library for the next three months.

- Submitted by Betty Reed, SGES Publicity

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