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Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Newsletter

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Events

February 2

Genealogy 101: Genealogy for Beginners

Are you interested in researching your family history but don't know where to begin?

Genealogy 101 is geared toward those interested in beginning genealogy research. It provides a basic foundation for understanding the genealogy process and the resources involved in tracing ancestral heritage. The class will be held on February 2nd from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Electronic Classroom of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street. Seating is limited. Please call 630-2409 to register.

February 9

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society meets at 10:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9th, at the Mandarin Regional Branch Library at 3330 Kori Road. Jim Vearil, educational chairman of the SGENS, is the guest speaker at the free event. Mr Vearil will be speaking on using history as a source for family research. He will specifically use the Second Seminole War in Florida and demonstrate his personal findings related to the war. As always, light refreshments are provided and guests are warmly welcomed. For additional information call (904) 778-1000 (Tues-Thurs & Saturday) or (904) 333-5222 at other times.

February 16

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their Spring Seminar on February 16, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Westside Christian Church, 10123 Normandy Blvd.,

Jacksonville, FL. Cost is \$30.00 for JGS members and \$35.00 for non-members. Price includes lunch, with early registration, February 9th. Registration at the church will begin at 8:30 a.m. Our guest lecturer and genealogy researcher is Ann Osisek. Her topics will be *Calico & Cornbread*, *Finding Your Female Ancestor*, *Dead Men (And Women) Do Talk*, *Effective Cemetery Research*, *Where Have All the Cousins Gone*, *Connecting on the Internet*, and *24/7: Making Time for Research*. For additional information please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

February 23

Recommended Websites for Genealogy Research

Would you like to learn more about genealogy resources available on the Internet? On Saturday, February 23rd from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Genealogy librarian David White will share some of the recommended websites selected by Jacksonville Public Library's Genealogy staff. The class will be held in the Electronic Classroom of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street. Ability to use the Internet is strongly recommended. Seating is limited. Please call 630-2409 to register.

March 18

The SGES annual seminar is on March 8th. "Bringing Your Ancestors to Life" is a day-long workshop designed to help genealogists and others to write a family history. The workshop focuses on several different approaches to writing a family narrative including documenting the journey, character sketches, and using "faction" to bring ancestors to life. The goal of the workshop is to give participants options to transform volumes of research into readable narratives. No previous writing experience is necessary. The seminar/workshop is presented by Patricia Charpentier of Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Charpentier holds an M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Central Florida and a B.A. in journalism from Louisiana State University. She has worked as a memoirist, writing coach, editor, instructor, journalist and photographer. The early bird fee is \$25.00 (including lunch) through the month of February. On March 1, the fee will convert to \$35.00 without lunch. Seminar location: Riverside Presbyterian Church, Bittering Hall, 849 Park Street, Jacksonville. Registration 8:30 Seminar 9:00-4:00 Call today to register at (904)778-1000 or (904) 333-5222. Seating is limited.

New Materials

Marriage Records, 1823-1880, St. Johns County, Florida

Author: Mathews, Marguerite Marree

Publication Information: Raleigh, N.C., Mathews, 2003.

This resource contains three sets of marriage records that were abstracted and compiled by Marguerite Marree Mathews. The original records are available at the Courthouse in St. Augustine, Florida. For ease of use, there is an alphabetical Name Index at the end of the text which provides a corresponding page number for each entry. The first section of the work pertains to marriage records from 1823 to 1880. The record types include bonds, letters, licenses, and marriages. The entries are entered in chronological order by year then by party name. The second section is "Marriage Records Book [A]" from 1840 to 1858. "Marriage Records Books [A]" provides information related to marriage licenses and marriages that took place during this time period. Data

provided include (1) date the marriage license was issued, (2) to whom the license was issued, (3) the date the marriage took place, if applicable, (4) the pastor or official who performed the marriage, and (5) the date of record entry. The third and last section is “Record of Marriage Licenses Book B” from 1858-1880. As with Book [A], Book “B” provides information related to marriage licenses and marriages that took place during this time period. The data provided is the same type as in Book [A]. In short, this is a good quick guide for St. John’s County Marriage records between 1823 and 1880. Although it does not provide actual copies of marriage documents, it produces an excellent compilation of key information that researchers will find valuable.

Antioch Cemetery Plot Charts, Island Grove, Alachua County, Florida

Author: Ferguson, Jon R.

Publication Information: Jacksonville, FL, 2000.

As plot charts go, the *Antioch Cemetery Plot Charts, Island Grove, Alachua County, Florida.*, are nothing out of the ordinary at first glance. Yet if you know your Florida literary history you will find a name of international import interred here well off the beaten path. Consisting of two charts outlining the numerous plots, when you look at the West section chart, around the middle of the chart, you will want to take notice of the plot showing Rawlings/M. Baskins. This is the resting place of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of “The Yearling” and the autobiographical “Cross Creek.” Rawlings is buried next to her second husband, Norton Baskins. The discrepancy regarding his first initial is probably a transcription error. This was confirmed with the University of Florida Smathers Library Special Collections webpage, which owns the collection of her manuscripts and correspondence. Antioch Cemetery is located northeast of Island Grove, which is on US 301 just north of the Marion/Alachua county line.

Spotlight on the Collection: Florida Department of Military Affairs Special Archives Publications

In the late 1980s, the Division of Historical Services, Department of Military Affairs undertook “a long-term project involving the preparation and publication of archival material from their records collection and original research results on Florida-related military topics.” The result is the 150-volume Florida Department of Military Affairs Special Archives Publications set. Due to the limited number of copies that were produced, the publications are available only at major state historical record depositories, including Jacksonville Public Library.

The set covers the state’s military affairs from colonial times to Operation Desert Storm. The format and contents vary from volume to volume. Some volumes are comprised entirely of transcriptions of muster rolls; others contain photocopies of letters and other documents. As there is no cumulative name index, the best way to use the set is to look at the list of subjects in the thumb index and pull the volumes that are relevant to your research. You can view the thumb index of Special Archives Publications at:

http://jaxpubliclibrary.org/coll/gen/dma_pubs.pdf.

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.

The Jacksonville African American Genealogy Society (JAAGS) invites K-12 students in Duval County to participate in their first annual Black History Month poetry competition. Poems should be written about black men, women or children who have contributed to the advancement of blacks in academics, arts & culture, science and history. Entries must be postmarked on or before February 20. For more information and contest rules, please email flossy14@aol.com.

- Submitted by Florence Rush-White

Have you ever wondered -- how did your ancestors meet? How were they introduced? What was their first meeting like? Their courtship? If it's a marriage from many years ago, did it start with a chance meeting or was it an arranged marriage? That's rarely found in any records. Somehow their two paths crossed, joined, and became one journey and led to your being here today.

Here's a brief example from my family's heritage. See if it raises questions similar to the ones you have in your own heritage. In 1834 my great-great-grandfather John came over from England to America, landing in Philadelphia. He was a cabinetmaker by trade. By then, Mary Ann was already a third-generation Marylander, her grandfather having come over in 1752 from Prussia. In 1835 her father took the family westward to the fertile farmlands of Ohio (in our country's young history it was then called the "North West").

In late 1836 we have John in a river town in southern Ohio, penning a melancholy poem about his loneliness in the new land, missing his former life in England. Part of it reads, "This is not my home." The lonely Englishman and the German family's daughter are in Ohio -- but they are more than 150 miles apart. They are almost in two different worlds, along our country's frontier.

Yet somehow, somewhere, their paths met. We do not know how. We only know the basic fact: they were married two years later, in 1838. John was 35, and Mary Ann was 22. They were married on February 14 -- Valentine's Day.

In your heritage, you might wonder about how your ancestors met. But that makes it all the more imperative that you record all you do know -- so your descendants won't have to guess.

- Submitted by Joe Roberts

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