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## Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Newsletter

"Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you." -- **Mark Twain**

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### Events

#### April 12

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society meeting is Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:15 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Mandarin Regional Library, 3330 Kori Road in the Community Meeting Room. The speaker is Sarah Quintin from Quintin Publishing Co. and the topic is "Publishing Your Writings." Ms. Quintin will present information on copyrights and tips on publishing. The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 778-1000 or 262-1948.

#### April 19

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting on April 19th, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL. Tom Barry will present a program titled, "The History of Guana Peninsula; The European Discovery of St. Augustine; Spanish, Indian and British Occupation." For further information, please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

## April 26

### *Ancestry Library Edition: How to Use a Powerful Genealogy Source*

Learn how to use this comprehensive genealogy database available at all Jacksonville Public Library locations. The class is from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Electronic Classroom on the 1st floor of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. Seating is limited. Please call 630-2409 to register.

## May 6

### *Bare Bones: An Introduction to Genealogy*

Karen Rhodes presents an introduction to genealogy at the Argyle Branch Library, 7973 Old Middleburg Rd. South, at 7:00 p.m. on May 6. For more information, please call 573-3164.

## New Materials

### ***North American wills registered in London, 1611-1857* - compiled by Peter Wilson Coldham**

Publisher: Genealogical Pub. Co.

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 1/30/2007

ISBN: 9780806317731

ISBN-10: 0806317736



It is advised that one reads the introduction first. Therein we learn that the Prerogative Court of Canterbury was the only authority in England able to issue and register grants of probate required by citizens of England and Wales who died leaving wills or assets worth more than £5. With those criteria, it turns out that less than 1% were well off enough to have their will registered in the Prerogative Court. This book is an index of North American wills that were registered with the court. These wills are now available for order from the British National Archives. Web links and instructions for ordering copies of the will are given in a step-by-step guide, as well as a list of abbreviations used throughout the book. The names indexed are an interesting exploration into people's lives, relations and means, as some listings are fairly descriptive of the individual and his or her family.

## Spotlight on the Collection

If you have an ancestor who served or could have served in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), you may wish to review the ***Revolutionary War Rolls***. This microfilm set is an excellent resource for military information regarding American Revolutionary War soldiers. "The primary function of the many Revolutionary War rolls maintained by the American Army was to provide basic information about the identities, numbers, condition, equipage, and pay status of the men and units that comprised the Army in order to facilitate administrative control."

This information is contained on 138 rolls of microfilm. Reel #1 contains a manuscript register of the series. The records are organized by microfilm number along with the name of the state, and the military unit type. Record types in the series encompass muster rolls, payrolls, strength returns, and other miscellaneous records, such as personnel, pay, and supply information.

Most of the muster rolls in this set are "company rolls." The other is "regimental muster rolls." They provide lists of names in descending order of rank of all officers and men of the company that were present or absent on the day the unit was called together for muster check. Each roster ends with the names of soldiers that were to be dropped from the rolls for reasons, such as transfers, discharge, desertion, or death.

Other records types include: regimental and company payrolls, supply rolls, receipt rolls, ration abstracts, financial rolls, and pay receipt rolls.

## **From Behind the Desk: A Commentary**

Sometimes I get a funny look from people when I tell them I am a librarian working in a genealogy collection. Some people just don't "get" why one would bother looking up long dead relations, as they don't have any relevance to the world today and how that person's life affects their own.

An example comes to mind. Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with why it is happening, there are men and women giving their lives in military service today. Their families will certainly carry on the memory of their lost one and pass it on to the generation that follows.

Eventually, almost inevitably, there will be a loss of memory or interest in the memory of that military service, as the fallen won't really have any relevance to what is happening in that future present.

In a war fought around one hundred forty years ago for weal or woe, my great-great grandfather fought and died from injuries in one of the last battles. He left a couple of little girls to grow up without their father. Eventually the memory of his life was forgotten to his descendants.

Except there were records and a genealogist in his line.

In the research of my various lines I found my great-great-grandfather in one census but not the next. Considering the timeframe, it was a good probability he was a war casualty, so I started looking at service records, where I found him and his units. These records gave me a date of death and where. After a couple of false leads, I found out where he is buried. I even made a phone call to the cemetery, which confirmed my research.

I am here because of him, which makes him relevant to today. He is remembered. And inevitably there will be someone one hundred and forty years from now curious enough to find out their genealogy and find out about the almost forgotten, but still relevant, serviceman or woman that fell today.

**-Submitted by David White**

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