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December 2008 Genealogy Newsletter

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Events

December 6

Recommended Websites for Genealogy Research

Would you like to learn more about genealogy resources available on the Internet? On Saturday, December 6th 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.

December 6

"Christmas in the Appalachians" is the theme of the Christmas social for The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc. There will be traditional Christmas music with the sounds of banjo, mandolin, and dulcimer. Talent by society members and friends. Dress for men is jeans or overalls. Ladies wear jeans or jean skirt with a "Christmas blouse, sweater or vest." Event will be held Saturday, December 6th, 2008 at 11:00 AM, Mandarin Regional Library, 3330 Kori Road. Everyone brings a covered dish to share. Call to sign up for a dish, give number attending (family invited) and to help us plan accordingly for seating. Also, call to volunteer your talent: 778-1000 or 262-1948

Season's Greetings!

If it's been a while since your last visit, now is the perfect time to stop by the Library. For the month of December, the Main Library has been transformed into a Winter Wonderland. The Junior League and Jacksonville Public Library have partnered to bring us the Festival of Trees, a display of spectacularly decorated trees, each inspired by a different book. The Festival of Trees features 26 trees that encircle the grand staircase on three floors of the Library. The holiday cheer continues as you enter the Special Collections area on the 4th floor.

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New Arrivals: County Court Records

Without a doubt, the most frequently used items in our microfilm collection are the county court records for Duval and surrounding counties (including Clay and St. Johns). Because the court records for Northeast Florida counties are in such high demand, we've expanded our geographic coverage to include Baker and Nassau counties. This month, we received the following county court records on microfilm:

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Obituaries and Death Notices: Is There a Difference?

Obituaries and Death Notices are great resources for genealogists. The information they provide varies in many respects and can lead to other forms or sources of information. Although obituaries and death notices are used synonymously, there is a difference.

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Sons of the American Revolution Lineage Society

Throughout American history, many societies have risen and have developed over the course of time. The purpose of such societies and organizations vary greatly, depending upon their founder(s), origin, and reason for existence. In America, there are many societal groups in many areas; such as medicine, law, and education as well as the arts, science, and religion. For researchers of family history though, two of the most noted types are historical and genealogical societies.

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Fleming Island Genealogy Group Tour the JPL Genealogy Collection

One of my favorite parts of my job is showing our impressive genealogy collection to people who have never visited the library before. On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to give a tour of the collection to the Fleming Island Genealogy Group.

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18th Century Obituaries: the First Celebrity Gossip Columns

As genealogists, we rely on obituaries to provide birth and death dates, biographical details, and the names of surviving relatives. Obituary content provided by the surviving relatives casts the subject in a flattering light. Modern obituaries list a person's achievements and omit any personal information that might be considered scandalous. Dr. Elizabeth Warwick, associate professor at the University of Warwick (UK) claims this was not the case in 18th century England.

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Genie's Genealogical Tip No. 1

When searching for marriage records, don't forget to consider "marriage bonds" and "marriage banns." Marriage bonds were posted by the groom at the clerk of the court in the bride's county of residence. The purpose was to show the groom's intent on marriage and that there were no legal impediments to the marriage. The father or brother of the bride along with the groom also could post the bond to help with the cost in the event the marriage was invalidated.

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