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June 2009 Genealogy Newsletter

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance.
- George Bernard Shaw

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Events

June 1

The Fleming Island Genealogy Group will meet on Monday, June 1st, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the computer lab at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Boulevard, Fleming Island. Ann Staley, CGsm, will share how to best use two web sites, www.familysearch.org and www.worldvitalrecords.com.

June 13

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will host Karen Rhodes' talk on "Blogs and Podcasts" on Saturday, June 13th, at 10:15 a.m. at the Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road, Jacksonville.

June 20

Tina Frady, First Vice-President of the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc. will present for discussion a program regarding "Lineage Societies." The meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville. Please feel free to contact Mary Chauncey at 904-781-9300 for additional information.

African American Genealogical Resources

Tracing African American family history can be a unique experience. This is true especially when compared to their European counterparts. Unlike with those of European descent, the U.S. Federal Census does not provide a significant amount of information for African Americans before the 1870 census. Since slaves did not own property, but were considered property, they were not counted for congressional representational purposes. Being manifested as merely property, they were included with the owner's land and personal possessions.

[Read the rest of the story >>](#)

Using Government Records for Genealogy Part I

When doing our search for our ancestors, most of our time tends to be spent considering and researching for the when and the where our ancestors were. Diving into census records, as well as city, county, and state records are the usual stops in our climb into the family tree. If we haven't found the records online that we desire, we haunt the stacks of the genealogy department of the library of our geographical nexus; looking for that one clue that can help us continue towards our roots.

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Using Government Records for Genealogy Part II

Until the 1940 Federal Census is released in 2012, finding personal name information, much less any personal information is problematic in government source material for the 1930's and after. In the last blog posted, the Army and Navy Registers were discussed as a good tool to find the when and where of officers in the service. As this information extended into the 1940's, it is a good source to help pin down a person's location in a given time until the 1940 Census is released.

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