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## July 2009 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**

### Events

#### July 6

The Fleming Island Genealogy Group will offer a "Computer Workshop: Our Favorite Genealogy Websites" from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the computer lab of the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd., Fleming Island. Call 278-3722 or email Chris at [cmochocki@ccpl.lib.fl.us](mailto:cmochocki@ccpl.lib.fl.us) to register for the computer workshops.

#### July 11

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc., will hold their monthly meeting at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, Jacksonville, FL, 6887 103rd Street, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Richard Minor, Jr., Regional Director of the Jacksonville Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum will present "Original Manuscripts and the Karpeles Collection." For additional information please feel free to contact Mary Chauncey, at (904)781-9300.

#### August 12

The Jacksonville Public Library is hosting a lecture on and viewing of the "City of Bridges", a documentary film that traces the history of Jacksonville's bridges across the St. Johns River. This is part of the library's ongoing "Year of the River" programming initiative.

Noted local historian, Dr. Jim Crooks, will conduct an introductory lecture followed by a viewing of the documentary, which was produced by WJCT, the local PBS station. In addition, both John Osif (the executive producer) and Stephen Jones (the videographer/producer/director) will be on hand to discuss the film.

The program will take place on Wednesday, August 12 at 6 p.m. in library's Hicks Auditorium on the Conference Level.

### Spanish Land Grants

Spanish Land Grants were claims to land filed by settlers after Spanish rule ended in Florida. The purpose was to prove property ownership. Initially, Spain offered these land grants to encourage settlement in Florida which dated back to 1790. When the U.S. took possession of Florida, these land grants were honored by the government as long as the claims could be validated. The information covered in these grants included, land description, date of grant, layout of the land, etc.

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

## New Microfilm Titles

We have just attained two new sets of microfilm for our growing collection. One is the Tax Rolls of Florida Counties 1839-1891, and the Florida Territorial and State Elections Records 1826-1865.

The Tax Rolls are the largest of the two titles, with 27 rolls available out of the 66 rolls published. The counties of Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, and Clay are covered in our acquisition, along with a number of historically key counties. Taxpayers are listed alphabetically for each year, with a list of the taxable holdings for each individual. One thing that a person could be taxed for was ownership of gold watches!

The State Election Records is the complete set of 9 rolls of film. While these contain personal name information, giving genealogy researchers a date and place for a given person, these records are not indexed. These are records that the counties turned into the state to verify election returns. Some of the pages of the originals were in poor shape when they were filmed, so the quality of the view may not be the best.

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