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# JPL Genealogy News

Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Collection Newsletter

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2007

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & CLASSES

2/10: Genealogy for Beginners

3/24: Immigration

## LIBRARY HOURS

Mon: 9am-8pm

Tues: 9am-8pm

Wed: 9am-8pm

Thurs: 9am-8pm

Fri: 9am-6pm

Sat: 9am-6pm

Sun: 1pm-6pm

### We will be closed:

Monday, 1/1 for New Year's Day

Monday, 1/15 for Martin Luther King's birthday

Monday, 2/19 for Presidents' Day

## Gravestone Art & Symbolology

Gravestones are solid memorials to mark the last resting place of our ancestors. Whether the stone is elaborately carved or just notes a name and date, it is an open book on human spirituality and belief.

Many people in earlier centuries were unable to read the epitaphs cut into the stones of their family members, so the symbolology of our religious beliefs and customs became all the more important. Everyone could understand, at a glance, the meaning of the death's-head, the coffin, pickaxe, cherubim, and scenes of resurrection. Children's gravestones commonly had a lamb at top. Wings symbolized the flight of time; many have an hourglass. In Jewish cemeteries, a seven-branched candlestick symbolizes a woman's grave, as she is the one to light the ceremonial candles.

Gravestone iconography can be seen in common categories. However, many of these symbols can have more than



one interpretation. There are architectural motifs such as archways, doors, pillars, and benches. Other categories include animals, books, clothing, and plants. Figures were particularly popular in earlier centuries. Heraldic symbols, military symbols, and organizational symbols such as those for the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Masons, and many more are popular still. Religious symbols are standard in most cemeteries, including VA

cemeteries. And the grandest monument combining art and architecture is the paean to oneself: the mausoleum.

For those who are interested in gravestone art and iconography, we have the following books in the Genealogy Collection:

***Going out in Style; the Architecture of Eternity*** by Douglas Keister

***Iconography of Death*** by Debi Hacker

***Your guide to Cemetery Research*** by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

***Gravestones of Early New England; and the Men Who Made Them, 1653-1800*** by Harriette Merrifield Forbes

***Granite Laughter and Marble Tears; Epitaphs of Old New England*** by Robert E. Pike

## African American Genealogy Events

Mrs. Florence Rush-White will be the speaker at the January Jacksonville Genealogical Society (JGS) meeting.

She will discuss her African American genealogy research and read excerpts from *The Levy-Williams and Young-Johnson*

*Family Reunion Heritage Cookbook: Seven Generations of African-American Recipes.*

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society meets Saturday, January 20 at 1:00 PM at the Webb-Wesconnet library branch.

The Jacksonville African American Genealogical Society (JAAGS) will host its inaugural meeting in February. For more information, please contact Florence Rush-White:

[Flossy14@aol.com](mailto:Flossy14@aol.com)

## New Resource Materials

**Black Loyalist Directory** edited by Graham Russell Hodges  
**Tombstone Inscriptions Evergreen Cemetery Chester, South Carolina**

**The Barber Family Yearbook 2005 Edition**

**New Hampshire Family Records v. 1**

**New Hampshire Family Records v. 2**

**The Tattnall County, Georgia Superior Court Records, 1805-1832**

**New Hampshire Name Changes, 1768-1923**

**The Province of Quebec and the Early American Revolution**

**The American State Papers**—microfilm (18 rolls)

## American State Papers

The *American State Papers* is a set of 38 volumes covering the years 1789-1838. It contains reports and documents created by or presented to Congress, and arranged into 10 classes or series:

- I. Foreign Relations
- II. Indian Affairs
- III. Finances
- IV. Commerce and Navigation
- V. Military Affairs
- VI. Naval Affairs
- VII. Post Office Department
- VIII. Public Lands
- IX. Claims
- X. Miscellaneous

The tens of thousands of claims contained within just two classes, Class VIII (Public Lands) and Class IX (Claims) can provide a goldmine of genealogical information, such as ages of claimants, locations of claims, places of residence, names of spouses, children and other relatives as well as record of the claim-

ants' military service.

In 1972, Phillip W. McMullin created a complete name index to the nine volumes comprising Class VIII and Class IX, titled *Grassroots of America; A Computerized Index to the American State Papers: Land Grants and Claims 1789-1837 with Other Aids to Research*.

The *Congressional Information Service (CIS) U.S. Serial Set Index, 1789-1969* also indexes the *American State Papers*. Although the CIS index is not as comprehensive as *Grassroots of America* for individual names, it can lead to information in the other classes of the *American State Papers* or the *U.S. Serial Set* that is not contained in Classes VIII and IX.

The *American State Papers* is digitized and available to read in its entirety through the Library of Congress American Memory Project at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>.

American State Papers  
on Microfilm  
at Jacksonville Public  
Library

Class I, vols. 1-6  
Class II, vols. 1-2  
Class III, vols. 1-5  
Class IV, vols. 1-2  
Class V, vols. 1-7  
Class VI, vols. 1-4  
Class VII, vol. 1  
Class VIII, vols. 1-8  
Class IX, vol. 1  
Class X, vols. 1-2

## Spotlight on the Collection: Boston Transcript

*Boston Transcript* was a genealogy newspaper that was published from June 6, 1896 - April 30, 1941. Its readers requested genealogical information and their queries were answered by other readers. Special space was reserved for this exchange in a column called "Notes and Queries."

With over 2 million personal name references, *Boston Transcript* is the most com-

prehensive source for genealogical information pertaining to New England during the period of 1600-1800.

Jacksonville Public Library has the complete *Boston Transcript* on microfiche.

We also have *The American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. The 226-volume set, *AGBI*, contains a name index to *Boston*

*Transcript* and many other important genealogical, biographical and local history materials.



Start Here. Go Anywhere.