

JPL Genealogy News

Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Collection Newsletter

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & CLASSES

3/10: Census

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:

Sunday, April 8 for Easter

Thursday, April 26 for Staff Development Day

A Rough Guide to Heraldry

There's been a tremendous revival of interest in the subject of heraldry. It's difficult to be brief about such an involved subject, but we'll attempt to hit the high points and explain some of the more common misperceptions.

Heraldry is a system of the use of hereditary symbols handed down in families or institutions. It originated in western Europe about the middle of the twelfth century. The correct term should be armoury, as the meaning of heraldry is the "art or office of a herald". Disputes arose over coats of arms, and the King gave authority to certain Great Officers to settle disagreements. Heralds were appointed by these Great Officers to assist them. Over time, heraldry came to be the term used to cover the science and art of these hereditary symbols or coats of arms.

A man in full armour was unrecognizable. So each man wore a distinctive decorative coat over the armoury, by which he could be recognized. These "arms" were also displayed on his banner, shield, and horsecloth, as well as being worn in civil life. Since no two men could wear the same coat of arms, these "arms" were soon used as personal symbols.

A crest is part of a coat of arms. It was made of light wood or boiled leather and

was fixed on the top of the helmet of the knight in armour. It's possible to have a genuine coat of arms without a crest, but not to have a crest without a coat of arms. For reasons of space on small ob-



jects such as silverware or notepaper, just the crests have been used with a family motto.

If you're trying to find a crest for your family name, you may not be at all successful. There is no such thing as a crest for every surname. Also, having the same surname doesn't give entitlement to use another's arms. If a blood relationship can be proved, a different version of those arms can be used.

Heraldry has its own vocabulary. Entire dictionaries have been written with the definitions of the extensive terms. Here are some of the basic:

Tinctures – refers to the five colors in general use: red (gules), blue (azure), black (sable), green (vert), and purple (purpure).

Charges – any object, animate or inanimate, or any geometrical shape or combination of shapes appearing on a shield.

Ordinaries – the geometric shapes on a shield, which has terms for each shape such as bar, bend, chevron, chief, pale, etc.

Lines of partition – Coats without charges, are divided into two or more tinctures creating patterns: chequy, gyronny, fretty, dancetty, etc.

Blazoning – describing a coat of arms in technical terms: Field name – e.g. argent; Principal charge – e.g. gules; lesser charges – e.g. leopard's faces (sable); lesser devices on principal charge – e.g. castles

For further reading, some of the many books in the Genealogy Collection are:

An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Heraldry by Julian Franklyn and John Tanner

Heraldry by Sir Gerald Woods Woollaston

Heraldry, Ancestry and Titles: Questions and Answers by L.G. Pine

Simple Heraldry; Cheerfully Illustrated by L.G. Pine

The Elements of Heraldry by William H. Whitmore

The Story of Heraldry by Ian Moncreiffe

Upcoming Programs

March 10: Barbara Kiersh will teach a workshop about the Federal Population Census. She will discuss how to trace family history using one of the most valuable resources for genealogists. She will also focus on the Census in the context of the times and events of each decade in which it was taken. The program will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Electronic Classroom on the 1st floor of the Main Library.

March 16: To celebrate Women's History Month, the Reference Collection at the Main Library will host a presentation about preservation techniques for old photographs. The speaker is Barbara Banks, a Creative Memories consultant. The program will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room on the Conference level of the Main Library.

March 24: Seventy percent of all Europeans who immigrated to America prior

to World War I entered the country through the Port of New York. Learn some of the fascinating history of the busiest port in the United States. Learn to explore the three major websites to find your ancestors and answer some of those family mysteries, such as original names, places of origin, traveling companions and more through ships' passenger lists. The program will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Electronic Classroom.

Internet Genealogy

We've added an important new journal to our collection! *Internet Genealogy* is our latest acquisition. Here's a journal that focuses on websites, software, and print source guides to the internet. Each issue covers the latest topics con-

cerning family searching by computer. Topics from previous issues include blogs, gedcoms and changes to and improvements on popular websites. *Internet Genealogy* is a journal the modern day genealogist must read.

Internet Genealogy is published six times a year. For more information about this exciting new journal, you can visit their website at <http://www.internet-genealogy.com/>

Spotlight on the Collection: 1864 Census of the South

In 1864, a special census of eastern Florida was conducted by order of Federal military authorities. The motivation for this special census is not known today but it is believed to have been part of the work done to help register voters under Lincoln's "10%" reconstruction plan. African-Americans were also enumerated despite the fact that they didn't yet have the right to vote.

The original census is at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It was never filmed and there are only four known photocopies of the original. One is here at the Jacksonville Public Library; the others are at the Florida State Archives, the Indian River County Main Library, and one in Vero Beach.

The census was ordered as follows: the colored population of Jacksonville (pp. 1-71); the white population of Jacksonville (pp. 72-104); white population East of the St. John's River, Duval County (pp. 105-169); and the population of St. Augustine, Florida (pp. 170-229). It con-

sists of twelve columns: Number [in order of enumeration]; Name; Height; Eyes; Complexion; Age; Where born or contraband; Last residence; Where registered for draft or former owner; Date into Department; Oath of Allegiance; Number of Rations; and Remarks.

The sixth column after recording physical characteristics and age, records where the person was born or "contraband."

"Contraband" was terminology used by Brigadier General Benjamin Butler, commander at Fort Monroe in southeastern Virginia. He used this term to describe a new status for certain escaped slaves. General Butler refused to return escaped slaves to masters supporting the Confederacy, classifying them as "contraband of war," as Virginia had just declared secession from the United States. Becoming a "contraband" didn't mean full freedom, but it was a step in that direction. By April 1865, an estimated 10,000 former slaves had applied for "contraband" status.

The column recording date the individual came into the department means when the individual moved into the area. The column after, recording whether the individual took the oath of allegiance is important information during the civil war period. Where registered for draft or former owner is invaluable information for those researching their African-American roots.

As well as the photocopied original, a published, transcribed version from Heritage Quest is also available at the library. In addition to the census, this edition includes an every name index, excluding owners of slaves, and a separate every name index of owners.



Start Here. Go Anywhere.

