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October 2008 Genealogy Newsletter

Family History Research - A Legacy of Love

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Events

October 2

Government by Gaslight Documentary and Discussion

First aired in 1966, this documentary provided crucial momentum for the Jacksonville Consolidation movement. Join us to watch this important documentary. Norman Davis, the documentary's producer from WJXT TV-4 and Harry Reagan, former WJXT TV-4 personality will discuss the news media's role in Consolidation. The viewing is on Thursday, October 2 at 5:45 p.m. in the Hicks Auditorium on the Conference Level of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street. For more information, please call 630-2409.

October 4

A Bold New Revolution: 40 Years Later Panel Discussion

A moderator and three distinguished scholars will discuss how Jacksonville has fared under consolidated government in the 40 years since it was implemented on October 1, 1968. The panel discussion is on Saturday, October 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Hicks Auditorium on the Conference Level of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street. For more information, please call 630-2409.

October 4

Ancestry Library Edition: How to Use a Powerful Genealogy Source

Learn how to use this comprehensive genealogy database available at all Jacksonville Public Library locations. The class is on Saturday, October 4 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Electronic Classroom on the 1st floor of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. Seating is limited. Please call 630-2409 to register.

October 11

Celebrating Family History

In celebration of Family History Month, Jacksonville Public Library and the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc. co-present an all-day genealogy seminar on Saturday, October 11. The seminar is on the conference level of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The morning session is from 9:30 a.m. - noon and the afternoon session is from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lunch is on your own. Optional tours of the Library's Genealogy Collection will be given during lunch and after the seminar.

The speakers are:

Jon Ferguson: "Where Might My Family Be Hiding In The Courthouse?"

Karen Rhodes: "Quirks of the Florida Census"

Jim Vearil: "The War and Its Hardship: Using Social History to Understand the Impact of the Civil War on a Florida Family."

Dick Cardell: "Documentation: Proving The Old Family Stories"

The event is free of charge. Pre-register to avoid the line and receive forward seating in the seminar. You can pre-register at the SGE website (<http://www.sgesjax.com/>) or by calling 778-1000.

October 11

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society monthly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., October 11, 2008, vice the 18th, at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6889 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL. Our speaker this month is Mr. Gregory W. Parsons, Curator, Camp Blanding, whose presentation

will cover Camp Blanding's establishment, expansion, federal control during World War II, training, operations and the German POW camp. For additional information, please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

October 13

The Fleming Island Genealogy Group's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd., Orange Park, FL. Speaker Arnold Weeks will discuss the pros and cons of tracing your family roots through the DNA testing process in his presentation "Trends in Genealogy DNA: an Overview." Please call 278-3722 for more information.

Celebrate Family History Month

As most of you may know, October is Family History Month. This year, the City of Jacksonville made Family History Month official by way of [mayoral proclamation](#). Many families will be celebrating this month with events, such as family reunions.

Jacksonville Public Library's Genealogy Collection will, of course, be participating in the month-long celebration. On Saturday, October 11, Jacksonville Public Library and the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society invite you and your family to an all-day genealogy seminar appropriately titled "[Celebrating Family History](#)." If you haven't already registered to attend the seminar, you can still do so by calling 778-1000 or completing the online registration at www.sgesjax.com. We are also encouraging people to recognize Tuesday, October 21st as "Share Your Family History Night." We will have ideas for you at the Oct 11th seminar. This is a night we are asking Jacksonville to take the time to sit down with their family and talk and share, look at photos, relive memories. Don't let the opportunity escape you to pass on your heritage.

In addition to these happenings, genealogy librarian David Fuller has compiled the following list of activities that you and/or your family might find interesting.

1. Start a Family History Family Tree Chart

This activity will get the research pistons going by allowing you to think about the members of

your family in a new way. It may spark memories of aunts, uncles, grandparents, and other relatives who might be excellent sources of information regarding the family. These relatives may not live in the same town, but may be contacted by phone, email, or post. This also provides the opportunity for a fun road trip.

2. Organize and host a Family Potluck or Cook-Out Event

This activity is less formal and requires far less preparations than an official Family Reunion. The Potluck lunch or cook-out would be an invitation to immediate and extended family members living in the same area, town, city, or county. Everyone would bring a dish and the expectation of having a good time, which will foster establishing and reestablishing connections with folks they have not seen in awhile. Sometimes family members may live in the same area and go without seeing one another for months or even longer.

3. Create a Family MySpace or Social Networking Account and Share with Family

This web resource may provide another means of connecting with family members - no matter where they are located. It also provides the opportunity to share family histories, stories, and/or upcoming events & activities, such as family reunions. In addition, you may share family photos and momentos electronically; thus enhancing the experience and research.

4. Start a Family History Book Club

Book clubs are a splendid way to bring people together. It allows individuals to share ideas and perspectives, as well as opinions involving a particular title, author, event, or subject. For example, the book entitled, *Genealogy for the first time: research your family history* is a good book with which to begin. Those who have experience conducting genealogy research will be able to provide insight and experience at the discussion. In addition, the book titles do not have to be about conducting research, they could be titles centering on historical or literary figures that help to shape the lives of our ancestors, such as "Gone With the Wind", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and many others. Even if the title does not have anything to do with history, events, or people, that's okay. If it's fun and it brings the family together, you've started a family tradition. The idea is to bring family together and to have fun while doing so.

These are just a few ideas to celebrate Family History Month. There are many others. Let the sky be your limit.

New JPL Genealogy Blog

The Jacksonville Public Library Special Collections Department is pleased to announce a new resource for our genealogy customers. Now, in addition to the monthly genealogy newsletter, we'd like to introduce the new "JPL Genealogy Blog." What is a genealogy blog, you might ask? The Genealogy Blog is another tool that allows us to help our customers keep up-to-date on the latest developments and resources of our genealogy service. With this resource, you do not have to wait for the beginning of each month to receive news and updates regarding genealogy at the Jacksonville Public Library. Instead, you now can receive information much sooner and more timely, such as scheduled genealogy classes months in advance, resources in the collection, and latest information regarding genealogy in general.

So, take a look, and tell us what you think. Your input regarding this new resource is much appreciated, and will help us as we look for ways to enhance our service to you. You can access the new JPL Genealogy Blog at <http://jplgenealogy.blogspot.com/>.

Interlibrary Loan Tips for Genealogists

At one point or another in your genealogy research, you may find a citation or reference to a resource that is not available locally. In this event, you can request the information you need

from another library to be sent here via Interlibrary Loan. One problem many genealogists have encountered when making an ILL request for a book is that the library that owns the book will not lend their genealogy books out. This is because many libraries keep their genealogy books in a special reference collection that cannot be checked out to anyone. A few libraries will lend genealogy books if they have extra copies of the title. There's no way to tell ahead of time.

So, how do you get the information you need? Heather Campbell of our Interlibrary Loan department offers the following advice: Submit an ILL copy request for information from the book. You can ask for copies of pages from the book dealing with the specific ancestor or specific family name you're looking for.

1. You would enter this information in the Photocopy form in your [Customer Interface](#) account.
2. The name of the book would go in the Title space.
3. The Article Author would be the author of the book, in most cases.
4. The information you're looking for would go in the Article Title space. You will have a greater chance for success in getting what you're looking for if you are as specific as possible about what you're looking for. For example- if you entered : "I'm looking for James William Hill. Born 1876. Died 1914. ", you would have more success than if you entered: "I'm looking for Jimmy Hill."
5. Please limit each request to one name.

You may be pleasantly surprised. In some cases, we've asked for a photocopy and the owning library lent the book for use in the library only.

Genealogy Trivia of the Month

Each month, we ask a genealogy-related puzzler. If you are the first to respond with the correct answer, you will receive a special gift. Please email your answer to genealogy@coj.net.

This month's question: When was the first state law of Florida passed requiring registration of deaths?

Last month's question: What is the soundex code for the surname PUDLICK?

Answer: P342

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