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February 2009 Genealogy Newsletter

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Events

February 9

On Monday, February 9, the Fleming Island Genealogy Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd, Orange Park, FL. Speaker Tom George, who has over 30 years experience with genealogy research, will share his extensive knowledge and experience. For more information, please call 278-3722.

February 14

On Saturday, Feb. 14, The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc. hosts guest speaker Mrs. Shannon Palmer at 10:15 a.m. at the Mandarin Regional Library, 3330 Kori Road. Mrs. Palmer is a retired mortician from Louisiana. Prior to her work in the funeral industry, Shannon spent many years in education and nonprofit work. In 2007, she founded CRPT (Cemetery Recovery and Preservation Trust of Jacksonville, Inc.). Shannon has been able to turn her passion for all-things-funerary into an invaluable community resource directly impacting the Old City Cemetery. Shannon's topic is "Tales of Working with the Silent." Free & open to the public with light refreshments served. More information: 778-1000 or email: publicity@sgesjax.com.

February 21

Genealogy 101: Genealogy for Beginners

The class is designed to assist those are considering tracing their family history and those who are just starting out. Even seasoned family history researchers may find the session to be a refresher course. The class is Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Electronic Classroom on the 1st floor of the Main Library. Seating is limited. Please call 630-2409 to register.

February 28

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold its Spring seminar February 28, 2009, at Crown Point Baptist Church in Mandarin, 10153 Old St. Augustine Road. Our speaker is Amy Lerner Giroux, CG, CGL, Orlando, FL. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Seminar begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Cost \$35.00 for non-members and \$30.00 for members. Registration applications received prior to Feb. 18, 2009 will include lunch. Registration forms can be found at <http://home.comcast.net/~jaxgen/09semflyer.pdf>. Topics include: Cemetery Research; Listen to the Land-Understanding Your Ancestor's Property Records; Pre-1850 Census Research-Determining Parentage; and Internet Research Techniques and Resources. For additional information, please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800

On the night of November 8, 1800, fire devastated the War Office, consuming the papers, records, and books stored there. Two weeks later, Secretary of War Samuel Dexter lamented in a letter that "All the papers in my office [have] been destroyed." For the past two centuries, the official records of the War Department began with Dexter's letter. Until now...

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The American Presidency: Family Roots of the First Lady, President and Vice-President

In observance of the presidential inauguration, Special Collections staff and volunteers researched the ancestry of Michelle (Robinson) Obama, Barack Obama and Joe Biden. You can see the results of this research in our current display, "The American Presidency: Family Roots of the First Lady, President and Vice-President."

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New Civil War Database

This month, the Florida Electronic Library added *Sources in U.S. History Online: The Civil War* to their online database collection. This database consists of approximately 450 primary source documents selected for their relevance to the study of the Civil War.

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