

Net Notes

IN THE FIRST PERSON

<http://www.inthefirstperson.com/fir/index.shtml>

AS GENEALOGISTS AND family historians, we are always looking for “stories”. In the First Person is a free, in-depth index of close to 4,000 collections of personal narratives in English from around the world.

It lets you search more than 700,000 pages of full-text by more than 18,000 individuals from all walks of life, and from all different time periods (1500s to today). It also contains pointers to some 4,300 audio and video files and 30,000 bibliographic records. The index contains approximately 20,500 months of diary entries, 63,000 letter entries, and 17,000 oral history entries.

About 75 percent of the material can be accessed for free, otherwise, you can purchase access to copyrighted material.

You can do a global search across the website, or you can browse based on repository, collection, documents, historical event, date, place, etc. For example, I looked at Place, chose North America, selected United States, opted for North Carolina and focused on Wake County. I am told that there are 13 relevant entries, and when I click on that

number, I learn that Wake County was listed as the birth place in 13 slave narratives. I noticed that under North Carolina, it listed not only counties, but specific communities (e.g., Salisbury) or places (e.g., Pungo River).

To do a global search, you have a few options. You can do what is called a “quick search” across everything from the main page by simply entering your search terms. Or, you have two Boolean-based focused search options for “collections” and “documents”. You can stipulate search parameters, such as keywords, collection name, time period, places, people, repository, document type and much more.

Additionally, there is a table of contents which lists the collections alphabetically and provides details on where, when and what is included. You can also learn which repositories are included, what documents are available for a particular time frame, whose stories are included and much more.

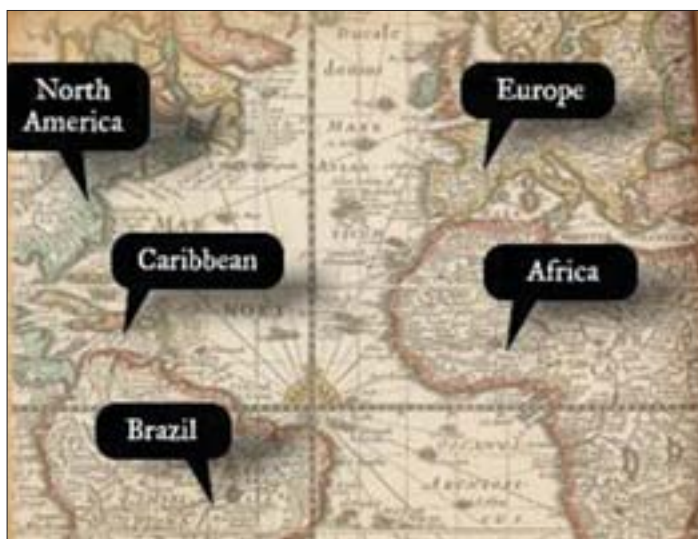
Maybe you’ll find a story about one of your ancestors! — DIANE L. RICHARD

SLAVE TRADE

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

WHETHER YOUR ANCESTRY includes African slaves, or the topic interests you, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database has information on almost 35,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked more than 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between 1514 and 1866. Records of the voyages have been found in archives and libraries. They provide information about vessels, enslaved peoples, slave traders and owners, and trading routes.

You can search the voyages database, examine estimates of the slave trade (though slaves on documented voyages represent four-fifths of the number



who were actually transported), and explore the African names database, which identifies over 67,000 Africans aboard slave ships, using name, age, gender, origin and place of embarkation.

Additionally, the website has essays about the slave trade, maps illustrating the evolution of the slave trade, images of ship registers, period maps, people and vessels used in the slave trade.

Via this website, you will discover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of people in world history, or maybe even find your enslaved ancestor.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

CASSINI MAPS

<http://www.cassinimaps.co.uk>

BOTH HISTORICAL AND modern maps are important to our research, especially if we are researching a place that we have never personally visited, or a location that has changed dramatically over time. Now, for the UK, Cassini Maps give you another option for acquiring maps to aid your research.

Besides being able to purchase modern county maps, historical maps or even a map puzzle for a UK locale, the Cassini Mapmaker allows you to create site-centered maps for anywhere in England and Wales from a range of maps dating from 1805-1948 (1805-74, 1896-1904, 1919-26 or 1945-48).

Another cool map option available is what they call the "Past and Present". Each of these maps is centered on a city or town (you choose from a

provided list) and covers an area of 15km x 15km using four Ordnance Survey mapping series to



cover four different periods: the mid 19th century, the late 19th century, the 1920s and the present day. All four maps cover exactly the same area and all use the same scale. Historical notes, details of the original maps used and web links for local history societies and other sources of information are also provided. Comparing the past with the present has never been easier!

Though maps are invaluable to our research, the challenge has always been to get

a map that shows exactly what's of interest to you in the time period you need — for the UK, that is now a little easier. — DIANE L. RICHARD

MEMEO SHARE

<http://www.memeo.com/memeoshare.php>

WHILE WE ALL love to share photos, it isn't always easy. They're often too big to send more than one in an e-mail, and they may be saved in a file format that the recipient can't open. Uploading them to a website can take too much time, and not all websites can guarantee that your family photos will be private. Sharing photos can seem like more trouble than it's worth!

Memeo Share is a way to eliminate all of that. It allows you to share photos simply by dragging and dropping them into a linked folder on your desktop. You can create any number of Sharing Circles (e.g., "family" or "college friends"), so that you don't have to keep the pictures public or assign viewing rights every time you upload photos.

To get started, you will need to download the free program. Once that is done, you create your free companion account (only an e-mail address and password are required) and you are on your way to creating your Sharing Circles. I created a small circle of my two children just to check it out. You only provide the e-mail addresses (and no names) for your Sharing Circles. And, you can personalize the note that they will receive.

Next, just identify the photos you wish to share (I had a group of photos in a folder and simply

selected that folder), indicate whether you want to keep them full-size or have the size reduced for typical screen monitor quality, and click "done" to set the process in motion. A new screen will come up, which gives you updates on any current activity in your Sharing Circles, and allows you to manage all the elements of the program, including uploading photos, interfacing with Facebook, etc. Based on my experience, you will do better to ask the program to minimize any photos if they are large, high resolution files, since otherwise, even with my high speed access, the images were fairly slow to upload and I found that not all of them made it.

I also found the drag and drop method of uploading photos quite straightforward — identify a photo (or photos), click on it, drag it to where it says "Drag photos here to share", unclick it and begin the upload.

After your photos have been uploaded, you can manage the process either via your desktop application or remotely via the website.

With such an easy-to-use service, you can quickly be on your way to sharing your photos and videos with family and friends!

— DIANE L. RICHARD

