

INTERNET GENEALOGY LOOKS AT WEBSITES AND RELATED NEWS THAT ARE SURE TO BE OF INTEREST

Net Notes

DISCOVERING AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

<http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects/womenshistory.php>

THIS DATABASE PROVIDES access to 445 digital collections of primary sources, such as photos, letters, diaries and artifacts, which document the history of women in the United States. These diverse collections range from Pueblo pottery to Katrina Thomas's photographs of ethnic weddings from the late 20th century.

You can search on these collections or browse based on subjects, states, time periods, primary source types or all digital collections. When searching, you have the option to do a basic search or an advanced search across all fields, by selected fields or by proximity.

Note that this is only a database to collections that are housed elsewhere on the Internet. For example, a search on "North Carolina" includes reference to a collection of letters by slave women (1837-38 and

1857) and Elizabeth Johnson Harris' (1867-1942) handwritten memoirs; the Samuel and Sarah Wait Collection, including Sarah Wait's journal (1815-17) and correspondence (1822-31); and Green 'N' Growing: The History of Home Demonstration and 4-H Youth Development in North Carolina, which contains photos, pamphlets and reports on a variety of topics, such as African Americans, WWII and tomato clubs.

The range of the collections is fascinating. I was able to look at photographs taken by Major Lee Moorhouse, an Indian Agent for the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Oregon); photographs of Chinese immigrants in California, 1850-1925; documents and images of immigrants to the United States, 1789-1930; and African-American Women Writers of the 19th century and much more. — DIANE L. RICHARD

EARLY CALIFORNIA POPULATION PROJECT

<http://www.huntington.org/Information/ECPPmain.htm>

CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC MISSION registers are of unique and vital importance to the study of California, the American Southwest and colonial America. Within the baptism, marriage and burial records of each of the California missions is an extraordinary wealth of unique information on the Indians, soldiers and settlers of Alta California from 1769-1850 (1769 is the date when the first mission was established and 1850 is when California was admitted as the 31st state). The project has records on more than 101,000 baptisms, 27,000 marriages and 71,000 burials performed in California during this time period. The database encompasses records from 21 of the California missions, in addition to the Los Angeles Plaza Church and the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Though the information provided on this website is considered public information, you must register to use it. To register, you will only need to provide your name and e-mail address and agree to the conditions for using the website. You will have to do this each time you enter the database. Because the site has a very sophisticated search engine, it is advisable to look at the "Sample Search", "Search Tips" and the "Users

Guide" pages before starting; these contain information on the database, as well as how to access and interpret the results.

The "Search Tips" page includes an important section on mission notes. Though missionaries followed standard practices when they recorded baptisms, marriages and burials, nevertheless, each set of records for each mission has its own peculiarities. Mission notes document gaps in records, the missionaries' errors in numbering their entries and any other circumstances that researchers should be aware of when they are looking at the records for a particular mission.

When you perform a search and locate a record of interest, it's possible that an extensive list of information will be provided. For a marriage record, it

would stipulate details of the marriage, of the groom and bride (and possibly their mother's and father's), witnesses and officiant. The notes section sometimes summarizes some interesting additional details related to the bride, groom or the marriage. For some entries, there are digitized versions of the mission book pages which you can access. — DIANE L. RICHARD



SWISS-ITALIAN MIGRATION PROJECT

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/specials/swiss-italian_migrations/index.html?siteSect=22500

SWISSINFO HAS LAUNCHED a multimedia networking platform for Italian-speaking Swiss emigrants and their descendants, *We Shall Not Stay Long — The Story of Swiss-Italian Migrations*. The 19th and early 20th centuries saw tens of thousands of people emigrate from this area. They journeyed to Australia, the United States and to other countries in Europe, in search of a better life. The website has both English and Italian portals.

There are five main areas: Land of Emigranti, Journey Into The Unknown, New World, Homecoming and Interactive. The first four areas provide information and context about the region, its history, people, emigrants and their journey. The Interactive area includes Blog Migrations, Picture It and Swiss Roots Database.

On Blog Migrations, experts post their views on migration issues, and Swissinfo journalists jot down their thoughts as they visit the places the *emigranti* settled in the New World. This community platform has been designed to encourage you to interact with



Swissinfo — and each other — in order to broaden the understanding of this period of intense emigration.

In Picture It, you can post pictures or images which help tell your family's story. There are two associated galleries: Your Images — Old World (pictures from Ticino and the Italian-speaking valleys of Graubünden) and Your Images — New World (pictures from the United States, Australia, etc.).

In the Swiss Roots Database, you can add information about your ancestors who last lived in Ticino to the Swiss Roots database. This database, accessible via <http://www.swissroots.org/swissroots/en/stories.html> (scroll down to Discover Your Swiss Roots), includes data related to any Swiss emigrant, not just those from Ticino.

For those researching Swiss-Italian ancestors, this online collection of information, images and data from many sources has created a vibrant community that honors its forebearers. — DIANE L. RICHARD

AFRO-LOUISIANA HISTORY AND GENEALOGY, 1719-1820

<http://www.ibiblio.org/laslavel>

IN 1984, a professor at Rutgers University stumbled upon a trove of historic data in a courthouse in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. Over the next 15 years, Dr. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall painstakingly uncovered the background of 100,000 slaves who were brought to Louisiana in the 18th and 19th centuries. Poring through documents from all over Louisiana, as well as archives in France, Spain and Texas, Dr. Hall designed and created a database in which she recorded and calculated the information she obtained from these documents about African slave names, genders, ages, occupations, illnesses, family relationships, ethnicity, places of origin, prices paid by slave owners, and slaves' testimony and emancipations. The French and Spanish of Louisiana kept far more detailed records than their British counterparts at slave ports on the Atlantic coast.

Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy is that database. It is fully searchable; the field options include name, master's name, gender, epoch, racial designation, plantation location and origin. There are no restrictions on what fields you fill in; the search program will work with whatever information you supply. When you find an entry, the information that might be provided includes slave name, gender, race and age, selling information (seller, buyer, currency, value), information on the document from which the

record was retrieved (location, date, type, language, etc.), skill and trade information, personality, family information (e.g., inventoried with mother or whether sold with mother, name of a mate, name of father), whether the slave was being emancipated or listed as dead and more.

For example, a slave named Abraham was sold in 1819 by the creditors of Francoi Loiseau to Jean Lazier. The document, written in French, states that Abraham had run away once and was a "good carpenter, coach driver, somewhat a shoemaker".

Another example is the slave Agathe who is listed as a mulatto rouge, 28, in 1764. It also states that she had two children under the age of five (three children overall — one female child and two male children), that her mate was Estienne, 40. By searching in the database further and matching with parents aged 28 and 40, we can identify the children of Agathe and Estienne as Marguerite, Augustin and Pierrot.

Under Miscellaneous Searches, you can find African Names, Revolts (slaves involved in a conspiracy or a revolt against slavery) and Runaways (slaves involved with reports of runaways, interrogation of captured runaways and testimony by slaves about runaways). — DIANE L. RICHARD

