

Net Notes

THE MAKING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN IDENTITY

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maailindex.htm>

THESE WEBSITES REPRESENT a collection of primary resources — historical documents, literary texts and works of art — thematically organized with notes and discussion questions focusing on African American history for three different eras: 1500-1865, 1865-1917 and 1917-1968. These are part of the Toolbox library of the National Humanities Center, <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/>, which contains other similarly themed collections.

For 1500-1865, the themes are Freedom, Enslavement, Community, Identity and Emancipation. The 1865-1917 themes are Freedom, Identity, Institutions, Politics and Forward. For the

1917-1968 period, the themes are Segregation, Migrations, Protest, Community and Overcome.

The materials are fascinating. For example, under the Enslavement theme for the 1500-1865 time period, there is an eight page document that contains selections of the correspondence between William Pettigrew (a plantation and slave owner in North Carolina) and Moses and Henry (black drivers on the Pettigrew plantations), 1856-1857. This would be an amazing find for anyone researching the Pettigrew family, and for those who learn that their ancestor served as a driver on a southern plantation. — DIANE L. RICHARD

CANADIAN RECORDS

www.genealogysearch.org/canada/new.html

ONE OF THE great challenges to genealogists is keeping up with all the new resources that become available. This is a website that might help keep you informed of new Canadian genealogy records that are online.

You can access the information in two ways. The main page contains a chronological listing of the more recent links that have been added. (As this is written, the new links added in 2009 are listed along with a link to what was “new in 2008”.) Or, at the top of the page, you can click on a particular province,

for example, Newfoundland and Labrador. You will be taken to a page that contains resources applicable province-wide (these do not appear to be listed in any particular order, so you will need to scan each entry for relevance to your research), and then lists the various districts/counties with links to these resources.

Whether you are new to Canadian research or want to make sure you haven't overlooked any valuable resources, don't miss this site. — DIANE L. RICHARD

DEVON WILLS

<http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/DevonWillsProject/>

THIS PROJECT PROVIDES a finding aid, in the form of a consolidated index of Devon wills, administrations and inventories, covering original documents, probate copies, transcripts and abstracts. This ambitious project involves the Devon FHS, the Devon RO, GENUKI/Devon, and the Plymouth and West Devon RO. The project involves transcribing information from various sources, i.e., indexes, calendars, catalogs, etc. The period covered is up to 1857. Wills and other documents are considered related to Devon if the testator is identified to be, or can be assumed as being, from Devon, even if the will was proved elsewhere. (The index covers only testators, not other named individuals.) The project does not itself transcribe, or collect

transcriptions of, wills.

The main page presents a list of resources which includes the following information: unique identifying code, source document/collection, number of entries from said source and the name of the transcriber. For each source document/collection, there is a hyperlink that will take you to the records specific to that document/collection. At the bottom of the main page, there is a consolidated index to the contents with a link for each letter of the alphabet. Click on the appropriate letter and you will see an alphabetized list of the entries for the surnames that start with the chosen letter. — DIANE L. RICHARD

GENQUERIES

www.genqueries.com/

MANY OF YOU know Dick Eastman from his Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, <http://blog.eogn.com>. He has created GenQueries, which is a free service that provides an online database for genealogy queries and for advertisements for societies, professional and amateur genealogy researchers, authors, publishers, genealogy websites, adoptee searches and more.

Anything related to genealogy can be posted here. The site is very easy to use, and it only takes

moments to post something. However, if your posting is deemed inappropriate (e.g., as spam, obscene, etc.) by five users, then it is removed from the website.

If you are seeking services, information, publications, or you want to offer a book for sale, membership in a society, professional services or more, take a look at this new genealogy community. — DIANE L. RICHARD

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, 1789-1930

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/>

This is a web-based collection of selected historical materials from Harvard's libraries, archives and museums that document voluntary immigration to the US from the signing of the Constitution to the onset of the Great Depression. It includes approximately 1,800 books and pamphlets, as well as 9,000 photographs, 200 maps and 13,000 pages from manuscript and archival collections. By incorporating diaries, biographies and other writings reflecting diverse experiences, the material provides a window into the lives of ordinary immigrants.

You can do a keyword search or browse the collection. When you search, the results are arranged chronologically from oldest to newest. The materials are not limited to English-language documents and the majority of the documents are from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

There is a timeline of key dates and landmarks in US immigration history that contains hyperlinks to any referenced documents available on the Harvard website. Understanding the entries in this timeline is

important to understanding what rules applied at the time your immigrant ancestor might have become a citizen.

Even if you don't have immigrant ancestors from the 1800s or early 1900s, it's a fascinating collection to browse through. It can be very useful as well. For example, my paternal great-grandparents immigrated in the early 1900s to Salem, Massachusetts. In the 1910 census, they were living in a boarding house near the Custom House. This website contains a report titled "An investigation of housing conditions in Salem, Mass" by Selskar M. Gunn, which covers the c. 1911-1913 time period — the same time my ancestors were in a boarding house. At one point, this book mentions "At the Point, 50 per cent of the cellars, 21 per cent of the tenements and practically all the yards (with the exception of the yards of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company), were dirty, ...". My ancestors worked at that company! — DIANE L. RICHARD

GREEK GENEALOGY

www.HellenicGenealogyGeek.com

IF YOU ARE researching Greek ancestry, check out this website by Georgia Keilman. It includes a mix of data records, links to records, photographs and much more.

Some of what you can find on this website includes: archives/databases/vital records, Greek records available through LDS Family History Library, online antiquarian books about Greece and Greeks, cemeteries and funerals, Greek culture and traditions, odds and ends



(such as 330 World War I and II Draft Registration documents), Greece gazetteer and maps, Greek diaspora, Greek naming traditions, Greek Orthodox Church, historic photograph collection and much more.

There is also a blog, <http://hellenicgenealogygeek.blogspot.com>, which talks about resources that might aid you as you research your Greek ancestors. — DIANE L. RICHARD