

Net Notes

DAR PATRIOT ONLINE DATABASE

http://dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm

THE DAUGHTERS OF the American Revolution (DAR) National Society now has its Genealogical Research System online and freely available. This is a great replacement for the Patriot Index lookup service (where someone at DAR headquarters had to manually correspond with you about identified patriots). Now, you can immediately know if your ancestor is classified as a proven patriot. Whether your goal is DAR membership or not, it's an excellent way to find out if your ancestors served the Revolutionary War effort in some capacity.

You will get a summary of documented service that will tell you if supporting documentation or information on descendants is available.

Some name variants are identified, for example, if I searched on McAlister it directed me to McAllister.

Some names will have this warning in red — "Notice: FUTURE APPLICANTS MUST PROVE

CORRECT SERVICE". This means that the proof of service used to establish this person as a patriot is no longer valid. Subsequent evaluation of the proof of service may have determined that the proof is not acceptable under today's standards (examples are tombstone, obituary, undocumented genealogy or county history, family tradition). The service record may belong to another person of the same name. The residence of the individual during the Revolution is inconsistent with the service, or multiple people have claimed the same service. Pay close attention to this warning, regardless of whether you are seeking DAR membership or just information on an ancestor.

Each line's most recent three generations are blocked on this public site. In order to see the most recent three generations, you need to contact a DAR member or chapter leader. — DIANE L. RICHARD

JOTT

<http://jott.com>

I HAVE SOME of my best thoughts when I am not able to write (e.g., driving, shopping, etc.). In the past, many of those thoughts were lost to me until they resurfaced again. However, I have used Jott for a couple of years and I love it. I have the service's phone number (toll-free in the US) programmed into my phone. When I have a brainstorm, I hit the auto dial number I set and leave myself a message. This message is then e-mailed to me. I can also set reminders. I frequently use it for genealogical notes about clients, research I've recently done, brain-

storms about what to do next, a detail that I didn't write down and want to remember, etc. Obviously, it is also a great utility for general everyday reminders.

Another nice feature is that you are not limited to sending Jott notes to yourself. I can Jott my husband, daughter or son and remind them of things. Just like when I use it for myself, they will get a message to their phone and their e-mail. Archives of all your activity are maintained at the website for your account. — DIANE L. RICHARD

EMILE — EARLY MIGRANT LETTER STORIES

www.emigrantletters.com

EMILE IS A PROJECT focused on emigrant letters, written to people left behind in the old countries. These letters are considered a vital part of Europe's common history and can shed light on an era of great impact on both Europe and America. The five participating countries were the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

Besides the letters, there is also an overview of the European emigration to the United States and a brief introduction about the importance of the letters.

The letters are organized by participating country. The interface is available in English or the language of that country. When you click on a country, the left-side navigation will include these (and more) options: Irish emigration, Letters in Ireland, Life stories, Causes of emigration, Crossing the Atlantic, Settlement in America, Work in America, Family, Photos and movies, and Letter samples. What is included for each country does vary. — DIANE L. RICHARD

TRANSCRIPT

www.jacobboerema.nl/en/Freeware.htm

WHETHER YOU ARE transcribing for a publication or your own personal use, it can sometimes be frustrating to have a file open in one window and another window open where you are transcribing the contents.

If you have done any abstracting for a large project, such as Familysearch, Ancestry or World Archives, you have probably worked with their interfaces, which eliminate the issue of having separate windows open as you transcribe a document.

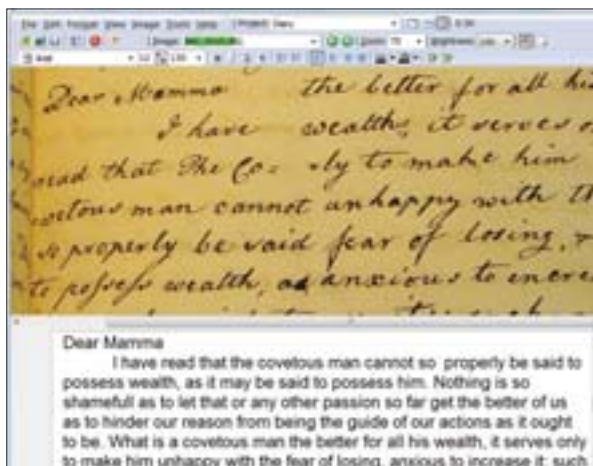
Now, you can recreate a similar experience on your own home computer.

Transcript is a free tool (though a paid version is available) that an individual can use to transcribe a document. As the author states, "The basic idea is very simple. Divide the screen in two parts. In the upper

half, the image is shown and in the lower half, you can edit the text. (As this is not an OCR program, the program does not convert the text. You have to do the transcription yourself.) [...] From within the editor, you can move the visible part of the image in many ways using shortcuts. You can also use keys to move to the previous or next image in the same directory ... [and] use most of the common editor functions also found in other editors."

I have used this to transcribe digital documents for the local genealogy society journal. It made the work go so much faster and it was less prone to errors than when I had to switch

between my image viewer and my document editor.
— DIANE L. RICHARD



An example of transcribing using Transcript.

FORCES GENEALOGY — MILITARY HISTORY IN THE MAKING

www.military-genealogy.org.uk/default.asp

THIS SITE CONTAINS military records of more than one million British Armed Forces personnel and more than 4,000 regiments, bases and ships of the British Armed Forces going back to before 1630. This website is a part of Forces Reunited, www.forcesreunited.org.uk.

The site is a mix of free and pay material.

You can search on a name or a history topic for free. To see any information, or to read the associated magazine, *Genes*, www.military-genealogy.org.uk/magazine/, you have to be a subscribing member. You should consider membership if you believe your UK ancestor served in the military. — DIANE L. RICHARD

SANBORN MAPS ONLINE CHECKLIST

www.loc.gov/today/pr/2009/09-210.html

THIS IS A GREAT tool on the Library of Congress (LOC) website. Whether you have or have not consulted Sanborn Maps (fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company), at the LOC or elsewhere, this tool will keep you current on the maps in the LOC collection. This is also a way to find out whether relevant maps exist for the locales where your ancestors lived.

Besides telling you about which maps are available, it also contains an introduction to the collection, provides detailed information on how to interpret the maps, shows some samples and illustrates how you can use the maps to understand

differences over time for a particular location.

The LOC, from 1955 to 1978, withdrew duplicates from its collection, which are now distributed to the collections listed on this page, www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/san3.html. You can also check out this link, www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/sanbul.html, which is based on the Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. These maps can give you excellent information about an urban ancestor or business. — DIANE L. RICHARD