Net Notes

GENEALOGY TRAILS
http://genealogytrails.com

THIS IS A WEBSITE like Rootsweb where the goal is to help you track your ancestors through time by transcribing genealogical and historical data for the free use of all researchers. Though the project started with the state of Illinois, now all counties within all the states are online with websites of their own.

Genealogy Trails is an independent group of volunteers. They are not affiliated with any for-profit company as its volunteers made the decision at the founding to fund and support the group's needs themselves.

Besides checking out the site and its state, military, slavery, African American, Native American and Historical data, do consider volunteering for the group or providing transcribed data for the benefit of others. After all, ProGenealogists has considered this site one of the "50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites" for three years in a row suggesting, that you might be missing out if you don't check out Genealogy Trails! — **DIANE L. RICHARD**

WOMEN WORKING, 1800-1930
http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/

THE CURATORS OF Women Working have aggregated thousands of items that illuminate women's history. The result is a unique, virtual collection, comprising over 650,000 individual pages from more than 3,100 books and trade catalogs, 900 archives and manuscript items, and 1,400 photographs. It is a digital exploration of women's impact on the economic life of the United States between 1800 and the Great Depression. Working conditions, workplace regulations, home life, costs of living, commerce, recreation, health and hygiene, and social issues are among the issues documented.

The site's collection is organized into these topics: books & pamphlets, diaries & memoirs, institutional records, key organizations, magazines, manuscripts, photographs and trade catalogs. Additionally, there is a timeline of "critical dates and events in the history of women working." One nice feature is that you can browse by topic and one of the options is "Regions of the US". This allows you to get a sense of the working and other conditions for your female ancestors for the state and possibly city in which they lived. — **DIANE L. RICHARD**

WALK IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS
www.virginiacivilwar.org/footsteps_main.php

WALK IN THEIR Footsteps invites contemporary Americans to trace their family history across Virginia's battlefields and Civil War sites by providing an interactive forum to research military, civilian, and African-American genealogical records. The main feature of the database allows researchers to choose any Civil War military unit that fought in Virginia by its home state. Once you have chosen your unit, you can view a brief summary of that unit's wartime service. You can also view a comprehensive list of Virginia battles in which that unit was engaged and learn more about any specific battle and also watch a brief video about the battlefield. An interactive map will also allow users to view the Virginia battlefields associated with each unit and create a personalized plan to walk in the footsteps of our Civil War ancestors.

Be aware that Union sources tended to be much more detailed in reporting a thorough list of engagements for each unit, while Confederate sources tend to lack this specificity and uniformity. Furthermore, various sources often used different names when referring to the same engagement, which presents a challenge for the historian seeking a uniform set of records. As such, the orders of battle provided on Walk in Their Footsteps are intended only as an aid to research, and not as a comprehensive source. If you have more comprehensive information or records, you are invited to contact them to share the information.

Additionally, there is a collection of resources that can help you begin your search. State-by-state military history resources will help those searching for an ancestor who fought during the war to learn more about their service. These lists were compiled from Civil War Genealogical Resources, State-by-State in the February/March 2011 issue of *Internet Genealogy* by David A. Norris. — **DIANE L. RICHARD**

Online Photo Collections
various links, see below

We are seeing more and more online photo collections, many of which have relevance to genealogists. Some examples of large online and freely available ones are:

• Museum of the City (NY) Photograph Collection, *http://collections.mcny.org/MCNY/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3& VF=MNY_HomePage,* which you can search or browse by Borough and also the New York Public Library has a Digital Gallery (more than 700,000 digitized images from various sources), *http://digitalgallery .nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm.*

• Wikimedia Commons, *http://commons.wikimedia.org/ wiki/Main_Page*
You can search using any keywords and you can also participate by uploading your own photos!

• The Flickr site includes collections from the Library of Congress, *www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress*, the National Archives, *www.flickr.com/photos/usnational archives*, the Smithsonian, *www.flickr.com/groups /smithsonian*, DeadFred.com, *www.flickr.com/photos/ 25306332@N05*, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, *www.flickr.com/photos/proni*, and so much more!

• Ancient Faces.com, *www.ancientfaces.com*

Check the website for a particular state's archives — many now have digital collections and these include photographs, such as Virginia Memory, *http://virginia memory.com/collections/online_photo_collections* and Florida Memory, *www.floridamemory.com/photographic collection/.*

If you know of a great online photo collection, please let us know! We'll share what we learn in a future edition of Net Notes.

— **Diane L. Richard**

Internet Archives & Directories
various links, see below

Whether researching in the US or elsewhere, local directories can be an invaluable tool. Some great and freely available ones are posted on the Internet Archive, *http://www.archive.org*, a site that we have talked about in previous issues. Some examples of directory collections found include:

• Scottish directories
www.archive.org/details/scottishdirectories

• Durham (NC) directories covering c. 1882-1920
www.archive.org/search.php?query=Durham%20NC%20 directory%20AND%20mediatype%3Atexts

• Atlanta (Georgia) directories (original format was microfilm)
www.archive.org/search.php?query=directories%20atlanta

• Extensive collection of Asheville (North Carolina) directories
www.archive.org/search.php?query=asheville%20directory

• Charlotte (NC) directories,
www.archive.org/search.php?query=charlotte%20city%20 directory

• Raleigh (North Carolina) directories
www.archive.org/search.php?query=raleigh%20city%20 directory

• Kingston (Ontario, Canada) directories
www.archive.org/search.php?query=city%20directories% 20kingston

• And, how about a directory of directories as published by R.L. Polk & Co in 1916.
www.archive.org/details/rlpolksdirector00unkngoog
So, search on a community you are searching on and see if its directories might be found here! And, know of another great site that houses digital directories? Let us know!

— **Diane L. Richard**

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