

Net Notes

FOUNDERS EARLY ACCESS

<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/FOEA.html>

THIS PROJECT MAKES available for the first time thousands of unpublished documents from our nation's founders in a free online resource. Collected over many years by the Founders documentary editions, these letters and other papers are penned by important figures, such as James Madison, John Adams, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Essentially, you now have a backstage pass to see these documents as they are being processed to become part of the Rotunda's American Founding Era Collection, http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/index.php?page_id=Founding%20Era%20Collection, where one can purchase the completed

publications (as a library, school or individual).

Because this website is a "way station" as these documents are prepared for final publication, documents are not necessarily available for all of the listed figures, nor are all the documents written by that figure available. And, there is a note at the bottom of each transcript that says "This early access document should not be cited in formal research."

Ignoring all that, this is another rich collection of documents written by and received by our founding fathers — what insight into 18th century US history.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

IRISH MAPS ONLINE

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/irishmaps.asp

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES of Ireland has launched a digitized collection of early Irish maps (c.1558 - c.1610) from the State Papers Ireland. The collection comprises more than 70 maps, amongst the earliest cartographic representations of Ireland, depicting plantations, fortifications and townships during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. Attractive and colorful, these maps include the famous 1567 map of Hibernia by John Goghe, and are normally held in their safe room. But now, as a result of this digitization program, these valuable treasures are accessible to millions globally.

According to Rose Mitchell, Map Specialist, The

National Archives, in a BBC article, http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_8307000/8307233.stm, "These maps were drawn at a time when the English were colonizing Ireland, transferring land ownership from the native Irish to English settlers. The maps were usually made in response to a particular threat, to show a siege or battle, or to help inform defense strategy against a background of ongoing clashes with Irish chieftains."

Besides being informative, these are just beautiful maps. Regardless of whether you have Irish Ancestry or not, you will want to take a look at these.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

WELSH WILLS

<http://cat.llgc.org.uk/probate>

OVER 190,000 WELSH WILLS (some 800,000 pages) have been digitized and are now available on the Library of Wales website.

These wills are those proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858 and encompass the following counties: Bangor: 1635-1858, Brecon: 1543-1858, Chester (Welsh wills): 1557-1858, Hawarden: 1554-1858, Llandaf: 1568-1857, St Asaph: 1565-1857 and St David's: 1556-1858.

You can search on date range, diocese and then

name, parish, township and occupation. My husband's family has Welsh origins, so I searched on Walter Matthews, whom we know died in 1823, according to his tombstone. I found his entry and the full contents of the will which names his eldest son as Richard Matthews, my husband's ancestor!

Previously, there was no easy centralized and free access to these records, so I hadn't fully explored this record group until now. This site makes it so much easier to gain access to these wills.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

GOOGLE VOICE

www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html

I WAS INTRODUCED TO Google Voice when my husband moved to DC and we wanted to have local numbers for each location, though not necessarily multiple phones, answering machines, voice mail plans, etc. I used Google Voice to create a DC area phone number that when called, rings to my business phone here in North Carolina (or I can have it ring to my cell phone, house phone or just go straight to voice mail).

I have also now converted my cell phone voice mail over to Google Voice. When I am called on my cell phone, and don't answer, messages are now left on my Google Voice mailbox. A nice feature of this is that I have set the parameters so that I get an e-mail with the content of the message that I can see immediately. To be honest, most of the time, the messages are so garbled that they mostly give me a good laugh and what's nice is that I can quickly see who called and left the message and figure out if it was critical or not, all from my computer. This is handy when I am working in the archives and can't take a phone call, but don't necessarily want to stop what I

am doing to call someone back unless I have to.

And, you always have the option to "listen" to the message by clicking on a link in the e-mail which will take you to your Google Voice mailbox where you can listen to the message as originally left!

Some other features are:

- Custom handling for individual phone numbers or groups of phone numbers. For example, I have a family group, friends group and work group — each has a customized greeting and each group's calls are handled a bit differently (e.g., work calls go to my office phone, family and friends go to my cell phone first, etc.)
- International calling
- Free SMS (text messaging)

• Conference calling and more ...

So, if you are seeking a great way to manage phone numbers, voice mail, etc., Google Voice might be an option. Be sure to check out the "About" page and watch the helpful videos which illustrate the various features in action. — DIANE L. RICHARD

EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH

<http://genealogyindexer.org/directories>

DIRECTORIES ARE AN invaluable resource for our research. When I first researched my Galician ancestors, it was great to see the directories produced during the Austro-Hungarian Empire era to get a snapshot of what the ancestral communities were like — in terms of size, population, church availability and so much more. To do that, I visited the NYC public library on 5th Avenue — not as easy an option for me now, as I live in North Carolina.

Now, you might not have to travel further than your computer to access a very nice collection of Eastern European-focused directories which have been digitized. The collection currently includes early 20th century and some 19th century directories for Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Silesia, Pomerania, Posen, Warsaw, Krakow, Romania, Carpathian-Ruthenia and more!

It's important to note that the interfaces are in the language of the institution housing the directory (often an English interface is offered — look for a Union Jack in the upper right corner and click on it) and the directory itself will, obviously, be in the language in which it was published. I checked out a 1902 Jaroslaw County Directory (part of Galicia at the time, now modern Poland — I had ancestors who lived in that county until they emigrated c. 1907-1911 to the US) which is found on the website for the Podkarpacka Biblioteka Cyfrowa. A 1901 Galicia Industry Directory is housed at the website for the Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa.

When you find a directory of interest, besides searching for that elusive ancestor in the directory, if you feel adventurous, check out some of the other digitized content to be found on these websites! — DIANE L. RICHARD