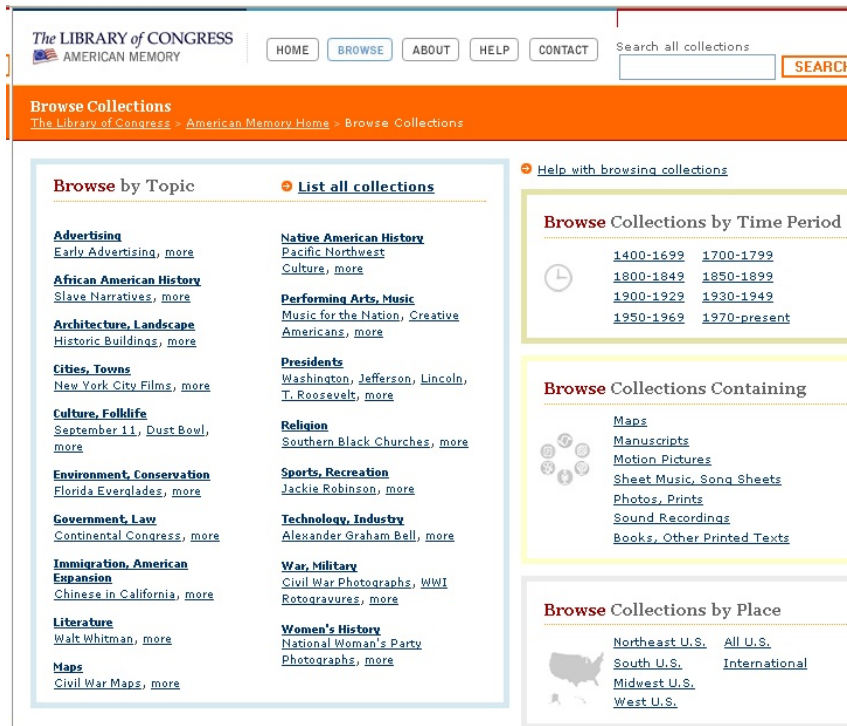# Library of Congress American Memory Database

What is the American Memory Database?

 The Library of Congress ran a pilot program from 1990 through 1994 that experimented with digitizing some of the Library of Congress's collection of historical documents, moving images, sound recordings print and photographic media. This pilot program grew to a pioneering, systematic effort to digitize some of the foremost historical treasures in the Library of Congress and other major research archives and to make the available via the internet. By 2000, the National Digital Library had exceeded its goal of making 5 million items available online. American Memory will continue to expand online historical in the future. The collection provides many things that can fill gaps in our knowledge of places and the events in history that our ancestors experienced. For instance, if one of your ancestors immigrated to the United States prior to 1890 and arrived in New York, he or she would have entered through Castle Garden. To see the Castle Garden records is great, but to see the building and have an image that you can copy and paste into a history about that person can be priceless!

Accessing the American Memory Database

- Go to http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/index.html
- You may browse any of the collections by clicking on the collection desired. Remember to use the "**more**" link to see additional sub collections. You may also search by **Time Period**, Certain **types of media** such as maps, photos, etc., or by **Place** as can bee seen by the screen shot below.

- To search for a specific thing in all collections, enter the search term in the box at the top-right of the window and press **<enter>** or click on **Search** button.
- When the list appears in the window, scroll through and click on interesting links.
- If a picture appears in the link, click on the picture to enlarge it. You may copy pictures using the normal methods. If you plan to use the pictures for other than personal use (eg publication in a book), please refer to the copyright link to ascertain what you must do.) There may be times when other links will not give you the item (eg a book), but will refer you to the holding library. Still others might have a link that says "View Image" and you may find that there are several images so that you must click through the image pages.