

## HAUNTING IMAGES

The public is getting a rare **look at the Holocaust era** after two organizations recently posted online exhibits of historical images.

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and Memorial <www.yadvashem.org> posted 130,000 images showing Jewish ghettos, deportations, concentration camps and liberation. Photographs in the searchable database link to more information, and you can click to open a Google map showing the locations of places mentioned in captions.

Many photos from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Aushwitz Through the Lens of the SS exhibit <www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/ssalbum> show Nazi guards at play—eating blueberries, dancing to accordion music and taking field trips—during 1944 and 1945, as the gas chambers operated at maximum efficiency. Others show ceremonies inside the camp and the funeral of SS officers killed in a Dec. 26, 1944, Allied bombing raid. The photos come from a scrapbook likely created by Karl Höcker, adjutant to the Auschwitz commandant during 1944 and 1945. The exhibit juxtaposes this album against the only other known album of Auschwitz, which contains photos of prisoners.

—Grace Dobush



*This Jewish family was among those deported from Stropkov, Slovakia, May 23, 1942.*

COURTESY OF YAD VASHEM

## Lying Low

**Lowcountry Africana** <lowcountryafricana.net>, a free Web site launched last spring by the University of South Florida's Africana Heritage Project, provides research guidance and records to those with Gullah-Geechee heritage.

That cultural tradition (called Gullah in South Carolina, Geechee in Georgia and northeast Florida) comes from African slaves who worked rice fields in the tidal marshes of the Southeast. Plantation owners there would seek out slaves from Africa's Windward Coast—Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia—where rice was indigenous.

The Search Records link takes you to the Lowcountry Africana Community in the AfriQuest database (hosted on project partner We Relate <werelate.org>, a genealogy wiki). There, you can browse records or search by name, place and/or keyword. Matches link to source information and record images or transcriptions.

Records also include Freedman's Bank and Freedmen's Bureau documents, as



*Lowcountry slaves helped build a rice-growing empire at Drayton Hall plantation in Charleston, SC. By 1880, when this photo was taken, phosphate mines had replaced the rice fields.*

COURTESY OF DRAYTON HALL

well as wills, estate inventories, Southern Claims Commission records and other papers from Drayton family plantations in the United States and Barbados. The family's Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, SC, now open to the public, is a Lowcountry Africana partner.

The site's Lowcountry Lives section serves up genealogical information on area

slaves—many from Drayton plantations—and their descendants. A Research Library has online articles, teacher resources and links to free African-American databases on the historical records subscription Web site Footnote <footnote.com>.

Registered users can submit their records to Lowcountry Africana—click Help on the Submit Items page for instructions.