

Try these local resources in roots search

January 08, 2009 01:25:00 PM

By [Linda Pazics Kleback](#)

Genealogist Linda Pazics Kleback, who lives in Maryland, is a former researcher at the Bay County Public Library. For her Jan 11, 2009, Tracing Pasts column on visiting the hometowns of your ancestors, go to http://www.newsherald.com/articles/towns_70874_article.html/ancestors_tracing.html An archive of her columns is at <http://www.newsherald.com/search/?q=Kleback&fstype=site&x=30&y=8>

When I first became interested in genealogy in the 1980s, we were in the era of snail mail. Personal computers were just a wish list item. Now we have both the Internet and savvy genealogists who have created a variety of online resources worldwide as well as in Northwest Florida. Here are a few of my favorites.

The Bay County Public Library has much to offer, both online and in person. The new library at 898 W. 11th St. in Panama City has a great collection. Genealogy specialist Becky Brown Saunders, who also is the president of the Historical Society of Bay County is very knowledgeable and glad to help researchers. You can post questions at www.nwrls.com/Contactpages/contact_genealogy.htm

If you are interested in Bay County history, you'll want to visit the local history section of the library Web site at www.nwrls.com/localhistory/index.html and the Bay County Digitized Photo Archive at <http://www.photos.nwrls.com> . Information also is available on "The Heritage of Bay County, Volume II," which is being compiled.

The aforementioned Historical Society of Bay County has a great Web site, www.bayhistory.org . Information on the Panama City Centennial Celebration in 2009 is trther as well as www.panamacity2009.com

Another of my favorite sites is that of the Bay County Genealogical Society at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs . There are actual records posted on the site, some of which I was lucky enough to help with when I lived in Panama City. You can also find information on the excellent First Families of Bay County program.

Other Bay County resources include the LDS Family History Center, 3140 State Ave in Panama City, (850) 785-9290 and the Official Bay County Records Search at www.baycoclerk.com/index.cfm?FuseActionPublicRecords.OfficialRecordsSearch

In the Fort Walton Beach area, the Valparaiso Community Library at 459 Valparaiso Parkway in Valparaiso, has an outstanding small genealogy collection. Its Web site is <http://vcl.valp.org>

Other great sites are the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base at www.afarmamentmuseum.com and the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue in Valparaiso at www.heritage-museum.org/index.htm .

Other Web resources I use often include USGenWeb at www.usgenweb.com for state and county help, Rootsweb at www.rootsweb.com for mailing lists, message boards, and lots of other goodies, and my favorite, WorldConnect at <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com> . I have posted my family tree at WorldConnect and made many successful contacts with other researchers.

We used to do our research without the Internet, but I have no desire to go back to those days! Thanks to Okaloosa County's Margaret M. Harris, a very experienced researcher, for her help with this article. If you have Okaloosa County questions, you can reach her at margmarieh@cox.net