

Tracing pasts: Pennsylvania project is impressive

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Genealogist Linda Pazics Kleback formerly was a researcher at the Bay County Public Library. She now lives in Maryland. For an archive of her columns, go to <http://www.newsherald.com/search/?q=Kleback&fistype=site&x=23&y=5>

When I worked as the genealogy specialist at the Bay County Public Library, we bought as many genealogy books as we could afford. But space and money were limited, so we had to follow some criteria when doing book selection.

We concentrated on Florida first and then followed the migration trail that most of our patrons' ancestors had followed: Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Users who had Pennsylvania ancestry often were interested in the York County area. I, too, have York County ancestors so it was always fun to add new books on this county to the collection.

A recent issue of "Our Name's the Game," the newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, noted some additions to the site Cemeteries of York County, Pennsylvania at www.usgwarchives.net/pa/york/yccemeteries.htm I hadn't visited the site lately, so I went to see what was available. I was impressed! If you have an interest in York County, this is a site you should explore.

Cemeteries of York County, Pennsylvania is part of the USGenWeb project at www.usgenweb.org

There are projects for every state and are a must-check resource. This is a volunteer project that has been going strong for many years. The content in each area differs depending on what volunteers have contributed, but there is some wonderful stuff here, and all of it is free.

There are state and county sections as well as a section for archives and special projects. The York County cemeteries are in the Pennsylvania archives area.

What is so nice about the project is the information offered and the way it is presented. Harry Senft is the photographer. The host of York County GenWeb, Kathy Francis, is the transcriber. There is a clear explanation of what the project is and how it is being accomplished. The columns used are identified so that the reader understands what information is offered.

Some cemeteries have been completed and have a full transcription and a complete set of tombstone photographs. Some are in process. Some transcriptions have come from other sources and were not created from photos. Photos and transcriptions are accepted from others although in some case, this is restricted to missing records or corrections.

New data is added as often as possible, and there is a link to a list of what has been updated and when. As of June 11, 32 cemeteries were complete and 74 others were in progress. There are still more waiting to be done. Some of the incomplete cemeteries do have transcriptions from other sources, so you may get some information from those now with more to come later.

Without the thousands of volunteers who contribute time and effort to genealogy projects, we would find our research much more challenging. On these hot summer days, take some time to stay inside and visit sites new to you and ones you haven't checked recently. You may find just what you need to make some genealogy breakthroughs.