

## Tracing **PASTS**

# Brush up on skills with beginner's seminar

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By **LINDA PAZICS KLEBACK**

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The Bay County Genealogical Society has helped many genealogists get started on their research over the years through its beginner's seminar. The teachers have changed, but the high quality of instruction has remained consistent.

I loved my time working with these workshops, and I'm glad to see they still continue. If you are just getting started on tracing your family tree or if you'd enjoy a refresher, a seminar *On the Trail of Our Ancestors* has been scheduled for Oct. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Bay County Public Library at 898 W. 11th St. in Panama City.

The scheduled topics include "How to Begin," "Using Technology," "Vital Records - Death," "Vital Records - Marriage & Birth," "Census Records" and "Organization

**On the Trail of Our Ancestors is Oct. 3 at the Bay County Public Library, 898 W. 11th St. in Panama City.**

& Source Citation." Six experienced genealogists will be sharing their knowledge and experiences. There is no substitute for learning from fellow researchers who have actively worked with the records you will need. When I attended these seminars to work behind the scenes, I always learned something new as I listened to the presenters. It also was great fun to be around other avid researchers who understand the quest.

For those registering by Sept. 26, the cost for the seminar is \$15 for Bay County Genealogical Society members and \$20 for nonmembers. For \$25 you can get a membership for 2009/2010 and admittance to the seminar. It is well worth it.

The BCGS publishes a really nice newsletter, and your dues help

support the work of the group. They are very active in local records preservation and administer the First Families of Bay County program. Information on their activities as well as links to their indexes and publications is at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/index.html)

Checks should be made payable to BCGS and mailed to BCGS, P.O. Box 662, Panama City, FL 32402-0662. If you prefer to pay after Sept. 26 or on the day of the seminar, the cost for the event will be \$22. The price includes admission, snacks, drinks, lunch, handouts and door prizes. What a bargain!

As of Aug. 6, the seminar information is not yet available on the Society Web site, but it should be soon. For more information, you can contact Judy Bennett at 215-1579 or [judybennett@knology.net](mailto:judybennett@knology.net); Diana Cochran at 236-6240 or [dbcochran@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbcochran@bellsouth.net); Suzanne Shay at [suzshay@bellsouth.net](mailto:suzshay@bellsouth.net) or Bill Zehner at [wjzohner@knology.net](mailto:wjzohner@knology.net).

Please don't miss this opportunity to learn from great genealogists and have fun, too. You'll have a great day.