

Family History Research

Hints, web sites and book list

Bay County Public Library

898 W. 11th Street

Panama City, FL 32401

850-522-2130

saunder@nwrls.com

www.nwrls.com

Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9am - 8pm

Thursday-Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 1pm - 5pm

How to Get Started Researching Your Family History

- ❖ **Start with yourself and work backwards one generation at a time.**
- ❖ **Interview family members to find out what they remember.**
- ❖ **Collect family documents. Look in all your files, boxes, scrapbooks, photo albums, safe-deposit boxes, and any other places that will give clues to family history. Look for marriage licenses, birth or death certificates, a family Bible, baby books, address books, autograph books, letters, newspaper clippings, Christmas cards and other items with names, dates or addresses.**
- ❖ **Visit cemeteries, courthouses, places your family lived, churches your family attended. Attend family reunions.**
- ❖ **Research the migration path your family made. Read books about the social life and customs for the different generations.**
- ❖ **Join Genealogy Societies in your home town and in the towns where your ancestors lived.**
- ❖ **Read books about the state and county your ancestor lived in.**
- ❖ **Visit your local Library and use the Genealogy books, periodicals, microfilm and databases such as Ancestry.com or Heritage Quest.**
- ❖ **Find out if the Library where your ancestors lived has a Genealogy Section or Local History Room. If you're planning a visit to the Library check their online catalog before you go.**
- ❖ **Look for newspapers from where your ancestors lived. If you're lucky you can find digitized newspapers online. If not, try to borrow microfilm.**
- ❖ **Use maps, atlases and gazetteers to learn about where your ancestors lived.**
- ❖ **Keep a paper "hardcopy" of genealogical records as a backup for the times when no computer is available, or to make scrapbooks to show other family members.**
- ❖ **Take Genealogy Forms for collecting data to family reunions and when you visit relatives.**
- ❖ **Attend genealogy classes, seminars and programs.**

Forms for Recording Genealogical Information

- ❖ Each piece of information concerning a pedigree ancestor and his/her family should be placed on a worksheet. Since the end result of your research efforts will be to compile complete, correct and connected families, the use of family group sheets and other forms from the beginning will make the compilation much easier.
- ❖ Use the proper forms available for downloading at the following sites.
- ❖ Ancestry.com - <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/familysheet.aspx>
- ❖ Family Tree Magazine - <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/FreeForms>
- ❖ Cyndi's List of Supplies and Forms - <http://cyndislist.com/supplies.htm>

Genealogy on the Internet

- ❖ There are great sites on the internet. However, it is important to verify what you find. You still need to do research in books, courthouses, churches and cemeteries.
- ❖ There are two genealogy databases available for use at the Bay County Public Library. Ancestry.com must be used inside the Library. Heritage Quest is available inside the Bay County Public Library and also available from home or work with an internet connection and your Library card number. When you type in your card number do not use spaces (26632000000001).
- ❖ There are a number of good free sites on the internet.
- ❖ Family search.org - <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>. This is a service by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints. Be sure to use the new Record Search Pilot portion of this site. New records are being indexed by volunteers daily. <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>
- ❖ The USGenWeb Project is a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States - <http://usgenweb.org/>
- ❖ Bay County Genealogical Society has transcribed and indexed a number of important items for Bay County research - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/>
- ❖ Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System has information on millions of soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War - <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>
- ❖ Official Land Patent Records - from the Bureau of Land Management, these are records for 12 eastern states, including Florida and Alabama. Also available at this site are Federal survey plats and field notes - <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

- ❖ **The Panama City Pilot from 1907 to 1941 and 36 historic maps are available online at <http://flhiddentreasures.com/> Put your mouse on Collections and click on Bay County**
- ❖ **There are others that you can find on the Library home page at www.nwrls.com under suggested links.**

GENEALOGY BOOK LIST

Applied Genealogy / by Eugene Aubrey Stratton

Author: Stratton, Eugene Aubrey

Published: (Salt Lake City, Utah) : Ancestry Pub., (1988)

Gen R 929.1 STR

Bringing your family to life through social history / by Katherine Scott Sturdevant.

Author: Sturdevant, Katherine Scott

Published: Cincinnati, OH : Betterway Books, 2000

Adult Non Fiction 929 STU

The census book: a genealogist's guide to federal census facts, schedules, and indexes / William Dollarhide.

Author: Dollarhide, William

Published: Bountiful, Utah : Heritage Quest, c2000

Gen R 929.1 DOL

Cite your sources : a manual for documenting family histories and genealogical records / by Richard S. Lackey : introduction by Winston DeVille.

Author : Lackey, Richard S.

Published: New Orleans (Drawer 51359, New Orleans, La. 70151) : Polyanthos, 1980

Gen R 808.02 LAC

Evidence explained: citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace / Elizabeth Shown Mills.

Author: Mills, Elizabeth S.

Published: Baltimore, Md. : Genealogical Pub. Co., 2007

Gen R 907.2 Mil

The Family tree guide to finding your Ellis Island ancestors : a genealogist's essential guide to navigating the Ellis Island database and passenger arrival list / by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

Author: Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, 1956

Published: Cincinnati, OH : Family Tree Books, c2005

Adult NonFiction 929 CAR

Family tree problem solver : proven methods for scaling the inevitable brick wall / Marsha Hoffman Rising.

Author: Rising, Marsha Hoffman, 1945
Published: Cincinnati, OH : Family Tree Books, c 2005
Gen R 929.1072 RIS

First steps in genealogy : a beginner's guide to researching your family history / Desmond Walls Allen.

Author: Allen, Desmond Walls
Published: Cincinnati, Ohio : Betterway Books, c1998
Adult NonFiction 929 ALL

Genealogical evidence : a guide to the standard of proof relating to pedigrees, ancestry, heirship, and family history / by Noel C. Stevenson.

Author: Stevenson, Noel C.
Published: Laguna Hills, Calif. : Aegean Park Press, c1989
Gen R 929.1 STE

A genealogist's guide to discovering your African-American ancestors : how to find and record your unique heritage / Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom.

Author: Smith, Franklin Carter, 1954
Published: Cincinnati : Betterway Books, c2003
Gen R 929 SMI

A genealogist's guide to discovering your female ancestors : special strategies for uncovering hard-to-find information about your female lineage / Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

Author: Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, 1956
Published: Cincinnati, Ohio : Betterway Books, c1998
Adult NonFiction 929.1 CAR

A guide to Mormon family history sources / Kip Sperry.

Author: Sperry, Kip
Published: Provo, Utah : Ancestry Pub., c2007
Gen R 929.1072 SPE

The handybook for genealogists : United States of America

Published: Draper, Utah : Everton Publishers, c2002
Adult NonFiction 929.3 HAN

Hidden sources : family history in unlikely places / Laura Szucs Pfeiffer.

Author: Pfeiffer, Laura Szucs, 1967
Published: Orem, Utah : Ancestry, 1999
Gen R 929 PFE

How to do everything with your genealogy / George M. Morgan.

Author: Morgan, George M.

Published: New York : London : McGraw-Hill, 2004

Adult NonFiction 929.1 MOR

Map guide to the U.S. federal censuses, 1790-1920 / William Thorndale and William Dollarhide.

Author: Thorndale, William and Dollarhide, William

Published: Baltimore : Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987.

Gen R 912 THO

Numbering your genealogy : sound and simple systems / Joan Ferris Curran.

Author: Curran, Joan F. (Joan Ferris)

Published: Arlington, Va. : National Genealogical Society, 1992

Gen R 929.101 CUR

The official guide to Ancestry.com / by George G. Morgan.

Author: Morgan, George G., 1952

Published: Provo, Utah : Ancestry Pub., 2007

Gen R 025.03929 MOR

Organizing your family history search : efficient & effective ways to gather and protect your genealogical research / Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

Author: Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, 1956

Published: Cincinnati, Ohio : Betterway Books, c1999

Gen R 929.1 CAR

Printed sources : a guide to published genealogical records / edited by Kory L. Meyerink

Published: Salt Lake City, Utah : Ancestry, 1998

Gen R 016.929 PRI

Red Book : American state, county and town sources / (edited by Alice Eicholz).

Published: Provo, Utah : Ancestry, c2004.

Gen R 929 RED

The researcher's guide to American genealogy / Val D. Greenwood.

Author: Greenwood, Val D.

Published: Baltimore, MD : Genealogical Pub. Co., c2000

Gen R 929.1 GRE

Shaking your family tree : a basic guide to tracing your family's genealogy / by Ralph Crandall.

Author: Crandall, Ralph J.

Published: Dublin, N. H. : Yankee Pub., c1986

Adult Nonfiction 929.1 CRA

The source : a guidebook of American genealogy / edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking.

Published: Provo, UT : Ancestry, c2006

Gen R 016.929 SOU

Unpuzzling your past : the best-selling basic guide to genealogy / Emily Anne Croom.

Author: Croom, Emily Ann, 1943

Published: Cincinnati, Ohio : Betterway Books, 2001

Adult NonFiction 929.1 CRO