



FEEFHS News

The Foundation for East European Family History Studies - April 2018

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary Year, we are including feature articles about various aspects of the organization's history. This month, we feature the history of the FEEFHS web site.

A Brief History of the FEEFHS Annual Conference

by Joanne Sher



The Salt Lake Plaza Hotel has been the venue for 15 FEEFHS conferences and workshops.

The FEEFHS Annual East European Research Conference has been a cornerstone of FEEFHS for twenty-five years. From the very first meeting in 1992, the FEEFHS founders planned to have an annual conference as one of the major activities of the organization. The first annual convention was announced in October 1993 and held in May 1994 at the Howard Johnson Hotel (now the Plaza Hotel) right next door to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The very next year, the FEEFHS went on the road to Cleveland (1995), followed by Minneapolis (1996). The original plan was to return to Salt Lake City every three years, and so the event was held in Salt Lake City again in 1997.

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Pittsburgh (2008).

The 2009 conference in Milwaukee was a joint conference with the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE). FEEFHS also held a western regional conference in 1995 in Calgary, Alberta during the annual convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR).

Since 2010 the conference has been held consistently in Salt Lake City to take advantage of the resources and knowledgeable staff at the Family History Library. For a few years, the conference format changed to a workshop, with morning-only classes and afternoons open for research and individual consultations. In 2013, FEEFHS sponsored a second event, a workshop on finding your immigrant origins. In 2014 the conference format returned to holding classes in both the morning and afternoon along with an offering of several pre-conference workshops.

One of the highlights of the annual conferences is the banquet, featuring a keynote speaker and great door prizes from sponsors and other donors. Luncheons, opening receptions, tours, cultural events, and appointments with consultants have also been a part of FEEFHS conferences over the years.



Door prize winners at the 2007 Conference Friday evening banquet.

The annual conferences are not only a great opportunity for registrants to learn about a wide variety of records and research methods from various countries, but also a great opportunity for networking with other researchers and with the experts. FEEFHS presenters find the FEEFHS conference to be a great learning opportunity for them as well and cite it as one of the most worthwhile of any conferences that they attend.

We hope you will join us for the 25th Anniversary conference this August. See below for more information about the event and how to register.

Free Webinars on Germanic and Slavic Research



The [BYU Family History Library](#) has produced a several free webinars on Germanic and Slavic research:

- [Beginning German Research – Laurie Castillo \(81 min\)](#)
- [German Online Sources – Milan Pohontsch \(41 min\)](#)
- [Printed Sources for German Research – Milan Pohontsch \(43 min\)](#)
- [Introduction to Slovenian Research – Milan Pohontsch](#)
- [What Can I Do If My Ancestors Came From Poland – James Tanner](#)

In addition, there are webinars on tracing immigrant origins:

- [Proven Ways to Find Your Immigrant Ancestors – James Tanner \(55 min\)](#)
- [Understanding Immigration for Genealogists – James Tanner](#)
- [Understanding Naturalization for Genealogists – James Tanner](#)

Additional webinars are available on a variety of topics, including research in other geographic areas, how to use genealogy websites and tools, and more at <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>. You can also view a schedule of upcoming webinars.

Database of Soviet Victims of Political Terror

ЖЕРТВЫ
ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОГО
ТЕРРОРА В СССР

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about their year of birth, place of residence, and circumstances of their arrest and their fate. While 3 million is a lot of names, Memorial estimates that this represents no more than a quarter of the total victims of political terror in the USSR.

A good overview of this database is available on Vera Miller's blog Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family in the article [Database of political terror victims in the USSR explodes past 3 million](#). See also Vera's [tips for navigating websites in Russian](#).

Early-Bird Registration for the FEEFHS 2018 Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the [FEEFHS 25th Annual East European Family History Conference](#) to be held August 6-10, 2018. The program will be at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, convenient to the nearby Family History Library for research.

Celebrate FEEFHS 25th anniversary with us and learn from the experts in Slavic, Germanic, and other aspects of East European Genealogy.

This year's program features tracks in German, Polish, Austro-Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Russian, Jewish, and DNA research. Pre-Conference Workshops are offered on August 6-7 on Finding the Village of Origin, Cyrillic for Beginners, Navigating Internet Resources, and German Document Recognition. You can [preview the conference schedule here](#).

Please visit the [conference website](#) for full details and [registration](#) information. Reserved lodging at the [conference hotel](#) is available at a special discounted rate for early-bird registrants. Early-bird registration ends July 1st.

Please forward this information to family members, friends, colleagues, and members of your local genealogical societies. You can also download, print, and share the [conference flyer](#).

The Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS)

25th Annual East European Research Conference

August 6-10, 2018

Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

Featuring:

Nationally recognized Speakers and Specialists
Individual Consultations
Research at the nearby Family History Library

Tracks and Classes:

German Research
Polish Research
Hungarian Research
Czech and Slovak Research
Russian Research
Jewish Research
Research Essentials (DNA)

Information and Registration: FEEFHS.org

Click on the flier image to go to the FEEFHS Conference page, where information about the conference is posted. Check back for more information as the 2018 conference nears, including early-bird registration information, hotel details, and more.

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