



## **FEEFHS News**

*The Foundation for East European Family History Studies  
November 2022 E-Newsletter*

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### **FEEFHS Names New President**



Milan Pohontsch was named as the new President of FEEFHS at the FEEFHS 2022 Annual Conference in July. Milan succeeds Thom Edlund, who had served as President since 2008. Under Thom's leadership, FEEFHS was transformed from a federation of societies to a foundation dedicated to helping individuals discover their Eastern and Central European heritage, and deepen their research skills.

Milan Pohontsch has been involved with FEEFHS since 2009 and has served on the Executive Council as Secretary for several years. Milan is a native German and Wend and does genealogical research in both languages with over 20,000 hours of research experience. Milan is accredited in German research, has presented at various genealogical conferences, and teaches Family History as an adjunct at Brigham Young University. He has published several genealogy-related articles in the U.S. and Germany. Milan has two engineering degrees and a Masters in Library Science.

As the new FEEFHS president, Milan is committed to continuing the path set before him by his predecessors. His first focus will be the development of a hybrid model for future FEEFHS conferences. He is also committed to keeping the FEEFHS website up to date. FEEFHS will continue to place a high emphasis on providing educational opportunities to researchers.

### **President's Message**

I am honored by the trust of former president Thom Edlund and the FEEFHS Executive Council and I accept the responsibility to lead this foundation as the next president. I want to thank the Council members, past and present, for all the hard work they put in to the growing of our foundation. I also want to thank all the conference attendees who attended our conferences since the early 1990s. This foundation would not be what it is today

For the future of FEEFHS, we plan to continue offering conferences. In past surveys it became clear that future conferences will need to become a mix between in-person instruction and online-accessible content. Over the next months we will work on a concept that will hopefully satisfy both aspects.

Another future focus will be the continuous improvement of our website content. Several articles need updates, other topics need to be added. We will work on a concept that will hopefully generate additional high-quality content that is not found anywhere else.

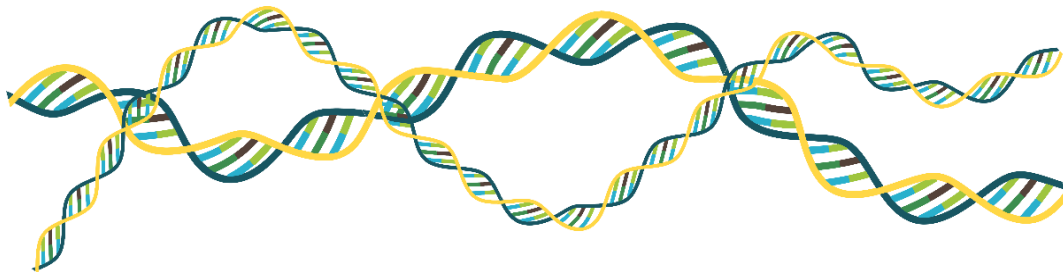
We are open to suggestions that will help the foundation fulfill its mission of promoting genealogical research in Eastern and Central Europe. You can always reach us through the Contact Us page of the FEEFHS website.

Thank you very much for your support of FEEFHS and we hope to see you again during one of our future conferences.

Milan Pohontsch  
FEEFHS President

## Genetics and Genealogy: Some Things to Consider

by Annette Unrau



During the holidays, well known genealogy companies advertise discounted DNA tests. Viewers may ask, “which DNA test is better? Which one should I do? How do the results differ from one company to another?” This article will only address the very basic reasons to submit one’s DNA, and why those reasons might be relevant. It is highly recommended that the reader conduct more research regarding this exciting aspect of genealogical research. Hyperlinks within this article are meant as resources for further study.

Before you buy, there are a few things to consider. The following companies offer autosomal DNA tests or kits: [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), [Family Tree DNA's Family Finder](https://www.familytree.com/dna/familyfinder), and MyHeritage (see below). Other companies like [23andMe](https://www.23andme.com) and [Living DNA](https://www.livingdna.com) also offer other tests, and prices vary. See the [International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki](https://www.isogg.org/wiki) (ISOGG) chart for information comparisons.

comes from which parent. Multiple atDNA tests within a family will reveal more information. Hence the importance of testing the eldest member of the family first, and then direct-line descendants for more possible relative (cousin) matches. Each of the companies listed above offer different tools which allow cousin matches to be more readily identified, how they (may) be related ([chromosome browsers](#) for shared matches), AND each company will have a [different reference group](#) or panel (Your DNA Guide) as well as “ethnicity percentages.” Each may show different cousin matches and varying “ethnicity percentages.”

“Which test should I do? And how do the results differ?” To answer these questions, one must have done the genealogical research first. 1. Gather all pertinent information. 2. Establish paternal and maternal lines. 3. Verify information with primary sources as much as possible. In Eastern European research, finding primary sources in the country of origin may not be possible as a result of unknown or missing information, incorrect information due to anglicized surnames, or lost/missing records. This is where “ethnicity percentages” may help identify familial connections, and give a general idea of where to look. After maternal and paternal lines have been documented, one may narrow if there are other DNA tests that may provide more specific information based on the familial (maternal or paternal) relationship to the person being tested. (See [Blaine T. Bettinger's “Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy”](#))

Purchasing an at-DNA kit as well as having a subscription to the DNA kit's company, will allow for leveraging historical record collections, member contributed pedigrees and DNA results, and their internal messaging systems as well as their varying tools for identifying and tagging familial matches, ideally, one would submit one's DNA to all of these for the sake of comparison and new discoveries.

## MyHeritage DNA Special Offer

While FEEFHS does not endorse any particular DNA kit over another, or any other genealogical products or services in particular for that matter, we do like to pass on opportunities for savings that are offered to the FEEFHS Community. MyHeritage DNA is offering the lowest price ever on their kits during Black Friday, and for an extended time to the FEEFHS Community, through November 30th. See information below. We'll also send a couple of reminder emails.



# MyHeritage DNA

Only **\$36** ~~\$89~~  
+  
30-day Complete free trial

[Order now](#)



Dear FEEFHS Community,

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Get MyHeritage DNA for the lowest price EVER — **only \$36** (~~\$89~~) per kit. As a Black Friday bonus, you can also get a **30-day free trial\*** for the Complete plan — our best plan for family history research. If you decide to keep the plan, you'll enjoy a **50% discount** off the regular price!

Here's what you'll get with this exclusive package:

Discover origins across 2,114 regions

Find new relatives through shared DNA

Build an unlimited family tree

Explore 18.7 billion historical records

Access all photo tools + Deep Nostalgia™

Buy as many kits as you want for ONLY \$36 each!

Enjoy FREE SHIPPING on orders of 2+ kits and a beautiful gift wrap option.

Order now

\* After 30 days, you'll enjoy a 50% discount and be charged \$299 \$150 for the first year. The Complete plan renews annually and you can cancel at any time.

Offer expires on Nov 30, 2022, at 11:59 PM

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