

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Foundation for East European Family History Studies

[View this email in your browser](#)

FEEFHS News

*The Foundation for East European Family History
Studies
November 2025 Newsletter*

Hitting a Brick Wall?

Genealogy can be incredibly rewarding, but sometimes it also requires an incredible amount of patience. When you feel as though you keep hitting dead ends or can't seem to get the results you need, trying a new approach can be key to progress. Try out one of the ideas below to shake up your research plan!

Connect the Community

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

What can you learn about your family by understanding the people around them? Was theirs a common occupation for their town? What might a godparent or local rabbi's story tell you about a day in their life? Part of this exploration may center around the "FAN Method," a research approach coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills. FAN stands for friends, associates, and neighbors, and it serves as a reminder to explore the stories of those individuals in an ancestor's network.

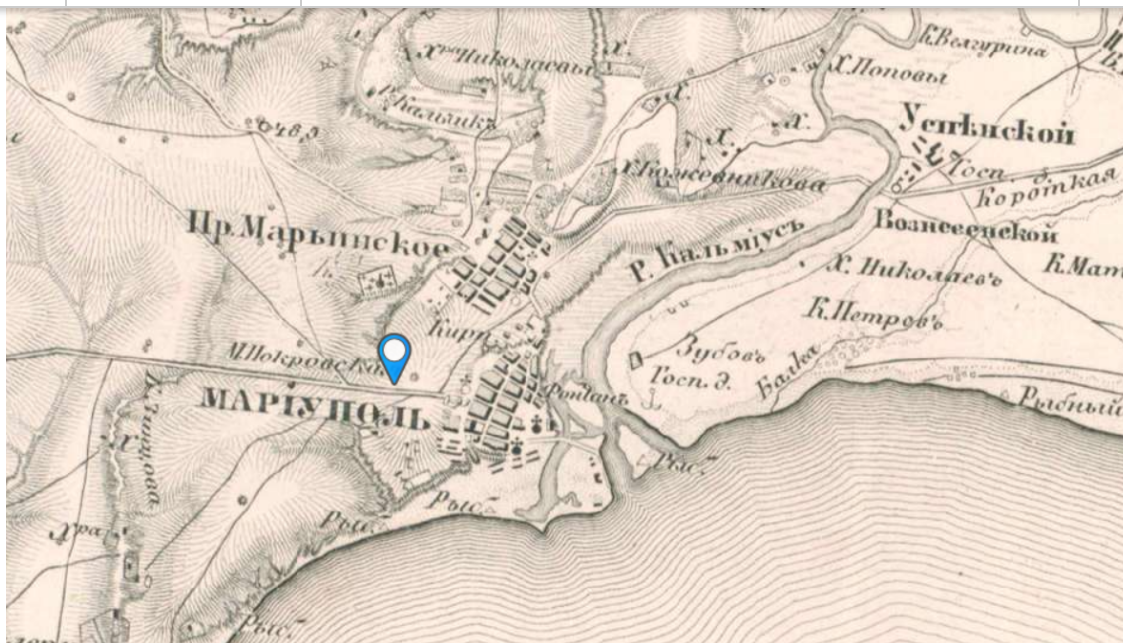
Another approach might be to collect wider statistics from the ancestor's hometown. What was the local mortality rate like? What was the typical age for marriage there? While more general statistics can give you an idea, a deeper dive into your village's records might offer more granular insights. Some researchers take this to extensive heights, such as those registered with the [Society for One-Place Studies](#).

Investigate the Area

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



How has the location your ancestors came from changed over time? How would historical lifestyles have changed your ancestor's interactions with their home? Reviewing historical maps can help to reveal patterns or insights into their stories. The map above shows the city of Mariupol, Ukraine. How might the river have impacted where people went to church or who they met? Which locations were connected by major roads at the time? You may find [Arcanum Maps](#) to be a beneficial tool as you start exploring maps.

Question Your Assumptions

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)			ORDER NUMBER
1299	LEO	TEVY	DMITROVSKY	1651
2. ADDRESS (Print) 12/21/40 100 Calumet Blvd (Number and street or R. F. D. number)				
3. TELEPHONE LA 4 0762 (Exchange) (Number)				
4. AGE IN YEARS 25 DATE OF BIRTH mo 14 1914 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)				
5. PLACE OF BIRTH minsk (Town or county) Russia (State or country)				
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP Russia has no papers				
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr Samuel DMITROVSKY (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)				
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON uncle				
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 235 W 76 St (Number and street or R. F. D. number)				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME DMITROVSKY BROS INC				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 150 W. 28 (Number and street or R. F. D. number)				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 10-17105				
Leo Levy Dmitrovsky (Registrant's signature)				

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

track, you should be sure to back up any assumptions as best as you can. Do the immigration records for your ancestor suggest they came from Austria? That label could include several modern countries because of the Austro-Hungarian Empire's more extensive borders. If you think you have found all of a couple's children, make sure you check any larger-than-normal gaps between them. The family story was that your ancestors were Orthodox Christians, but what if they were Greek Catholic instead? Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz explored some examples of this principle in her article, "[Grandma Said She Was From Poznań.](#)"

Bounce Ideas



Learning from other researchers can help to open new possibilities. Allowing others to inspire your next steps can greatly expand your perspective. For example, Katherine Schober shared some of what she learned at the FEEFHS 2024 conference on her website, [Germanology Unlocked](#). A talented genealogist herself, Katherine highlights some of the unique reminders and new tips she encountered in the classes she attended.

What Will You Try Next?

Share your research plan with us! We can all be inspired by the tricks others recommend. Connect with us through your preferred social media platform (linked through the icons below).

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



Share



Tweet



Forward to Friend

Copyright © 2025 Foundation for East European Family History Studies, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

