

East European Genealogical Society

2015 Seminar

Biographies of speakers and descriptions of topics.

William “Fred” Hoffman of Houston, Texas, has B.A. and M.A. degrees in German language and literature. He is not only the EEGS Publications Chairperson and Chief Editor of our quarterly journal, *East European Genealogist*, but also a desktop publisher specialist, language and translations expert, and author. He authored the outstanding genealogical resources *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins and Meanings* (with George W. Helon). Along with Prof. Jonathan D. Shea, he has also co-authored several translation guides indispensable to genealogists, including *In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents* (the volumes for Polish, Russian, and Latin have been published; the one for German is being prepared).

- ***Understanding Language Variations of East European First Names*** (Hoffman)
Learn how to identify name equivalents in Latin, English and 8 European languages (Polish, Ukrainian, German, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, and Lithuanian).
- ***The How and Why of East European Place Name Changes*** (Hoffman)
Discover many place names rendered in more than one language such as Polish, Ukrainian, German.

Matthew Bielawa of Newington, Connecticut has a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut and a M.A. degree in Slavic Studies and Literature from New York University. Matthew has conducted research trips to Ukraine, Poland, and Russia numerous times, including a semester of studies at Leningrad State University. He has specialization in western Ukraine and eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written articles for various genealogical journals, and created a web page *Genealogy of Halychyna / Eastern Galicia*, www.halgal.com, which is devoted to Polish and Ukrainian genealogical research in Eastern Galicia / Western Ukraine.

- ***Analyzing Vital Records of the Austrian, Prussian and Russian Empires*** (Bielawa)
Examine Ukrainian, Polish, German, Slovak, Carpatho-Rusyn, Jewish, Lithuanian, and Russian vital records (birth, marriage and death).

John D. Pihach of Yorkton, Saskatchewan has a B. Sc. Degree in Physics from the

University of British Columbia and studied fine arts at Vancouver Community College. He has made more than a dozen trips to Eastern Europe to research in the archives of Ukraine, Poland and in Vienna. He has served as the library chairperson of the East European Genealogical Society and has made presentations in Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Chicago. He has written twelve articles on Galician genealogy and is the author of the definitive work, *Ukrainian Genealogy*.

- ***Beyond Vital Records: Galician Documents of Genealogical Value from Poland and Ukraine*** (Pihach)
Explore numerous non-vital documents from the archives in Poland and Ukraine.

- ***Ask the Experts Panel Session***
Bring your research questions for William “Fred” Hoffman, Matthew Bielawa, John D. Pihach, Brian J. Lenius, and Maralyn A. Wellauer