



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GERMANS from POLAND & VOLHYNIA

HSGPV, 10014 – 81 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1W4 Web: <https://hsgpv.org> Email: [hsgpv@telus.net](mailto:hsgpv@telus.net) Tel: 587-454-0825

## HSGPV Library OPEN: Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM

Appointments appreciated - via email or telephone!

Our space is cozy and we strive for visitor comfort.

Check our Library Calendar at [hsgpv.org](https://hsgpv.org) ⇒ HOME for any last-minute changes!

## Genealogy Chats

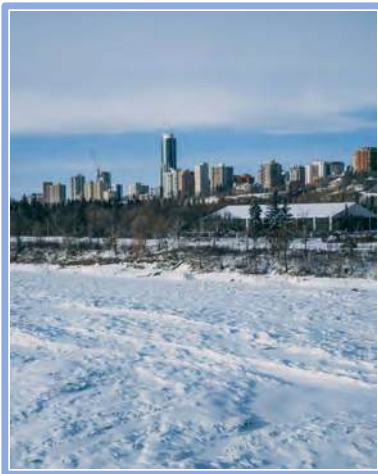
Last Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM.

In-Person & Zoom. More information in Library News.

HSGPV Visitor Log: Full name and telephone contact for insurance purposes.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep our volunteers and visitors as safe as possible.

## Society Members and Public Welcome!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

The year 2024 is closing fast. As we approach Christmas and the “festive season”, please protect your health and enjoy the precious time you spend with family and friends.

Over the year we received some requests for assistance with research. We were able to help out with finding the locations of ancestral villages, assistance to locate records within Poland and Volhynia and other requests. We have continued our relationships with the local chapter of AHSGR (American Historical Society of Germans from Russia), the SGEE

(Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe) and the German SIG (Special Interest Group) of the AGS (Alberta Genealogical Society) Edmonton chapter.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

Larry W. Javorsky,  
HSGPV - President



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# NEWS: Conferences



	<p>See News and Events  <a href="https://www.abgenealogy.ca">https://www.abgenealogy.ca</a></p>
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 	<p><b>RootsTech 2025 Conference</b>  <a href="https://familysearch.org/rootstech/home">https://familysearch.org/rootstech/home</a>  <b>Free online or in-person: March 6-8, 2025</b>          Free account: <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/en/">https://www.familysearch.org/en/</a></p>
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 <a href="https://igqp.org">https://igqp.org</a> 	 <p>2025 IGQP Conference—Columbus, Ohio  <b>Celebrate Your German-Speaking Ancestors</b>          Host: Palatines to America German Genealogy Society          June 13-15, 2025</p>	<p>Subscribe to the IGQP Mailing List for news.</p>
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	<p><b>FEEFHS</b>          FOUNDATION for EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY STUDIES</p>
<a href="https://feefhs.org">https://feefhs.org</a>	<p><b>FEEFHS Conference 2025 TBA</b></p>

 <a href="http://www.sggeorg">www.sggeorg</a> 	<p><b>SGGEE Conference 2025 TBA</b>  <b>New website in progress.</b></p>
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# HSGPV & BOARD NEWS



## HSGPV 2025 Membership!

**Membership Form is available on our website or by contacting our office.**

Yearly membership fee is **\$25.00** and valid between January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Payments are accepted in the form of **cheque** or **cash** (at the library) or **e-transfer**, using [hsgpv@telus.net](mailto:hsgpv@telus.net) Password: **Library2020** [no space]

### Volunteerism for HSGPV

In addition to board positions, we have a variety of committees to join.

Any board member would be happy to help find a comfortable fit for your volunteer time.

Treasurer position available. Knowledge of spreadsheets and online banking required.

*Want to volunteer and have Excel experience? The library has projects to choose from!*

Newsletter editor wanted! Our team works on MSWord collaboratively and efficiently, providing content directly into the draft. The editor oversees final presentation quality. Expansion of responsibilities is at the editor's discretion.

**Groups HSGPV collaborates with!**  **See info about each on our website.**

**AHSGR – Edmonton Chapter: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

**GFR: Germans from Russia Alberta**

**AHSGR – Calgary Chapter: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

**AGS – Special Interest Group (SIG): German Heritage: Alberta Genealogical Society**

**Trace Your Roots-Ukrainian-Canadian Genealogy Blogspot by Elaine Kalynchuk**

**GermantownYEG: Promotes walking tours of historical Germans in Edmonton.**

**SGGEE: Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe**

**Germans from Russia Settlement Locations [includes Volhynia]**

HSGPV Board 2024-2025					
Larry Javorsky	President	Art Breier	Director	Luciana Popp	Director
Vacant	Vice-President	Tim Grad	Director	Ed Retzer	Director
Brenda Javorsky	Acting Treasurer	Alain Lefevre	Director	Vacant	Director
Barbara Stenzel	Acting Secretary	Erika Lefevre	Director	Vacant	Director
Barbara Stenzel	Past President				



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!*



# AHSGR NEWS



HSGPV Newsletter Submission – Tim Grad, HSGPV Director; President – Edmonton & District Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

This article was suggested by HSGPV Library Volunteers, who indicated that they often get questions about which genealogy software to use. I have used six genealogy software applications. Two of them are on my personal computers and four of them are online services. I have been actively conducting family research full time since 2018. I do not use genealogy software on a tablet or cellphone.

## Online Family Tree Builders & Research Tools

*Caveat:* All online genealogy services provide hints from others’ family trees. Most tree hints are merely copied from somewhere else without verification or citation. Having received a hint, it is necessary to independently verify it in original records. Best practice requires citations to be added for every piece of information in your family tree. Otherwise, it is impossible to remember where the information originated.

Product (How I use it)	Canadian Prices, before tax (September 2024)	DNA Kits	Pros (P) & Cons (C)
<p><b>Ancestry.ca</b></p> <p>(Used intermittently from 2012 – 2017 and <u>continually since 2018</u>. This is my primary documentation and research tool.)</p>	<p><u>Canadian records</u> - \$70 semi-annually</p> <p><u>Canadian + key global records</u> - \$85 semi-annually</p> <p><b><u>All Ancestry records</u> - \$130 semi-annually (my choice)</b></p> <p>Extra Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newspapers.com access.</li> <li>- Fold3.com military record access.</li> <li>- Tree checker tools and enhanced DNA match comparison tools</li> </ul>	<p>Extra one-time charge</p>	<p>P – Widely used in N. America.</p> <p>P/C – Many historical records, but some do not have images.</p> <p>P – Common ancestors may be found via DNA matches.</p> <p>P – Can take a break and tree will be maintained.</p> <p>P – Tree can be private or made viewable by others. No-one else can change your family tree, without explicit access being granted.</p> <p>P – Family tree information from Geneanet.org (popular in Europe) may appear as hints in Ancestry.</p> <p>C – Few reports.</p> <p>C – DNA kits not as popular in Europe.</p>

<b>Product</b> (How I use it)	<b>Canadian Prices, before tax (September 2024)</b>	<b>DNA Kits</b>	<b>Pros (P) &amp; Cons (C)</b>
<p><b>FamilySearch.org</b></p> <p>(Used periodically to find records not on Ancestry.)</p>	<p>Free.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>P/C – Has many records that are not on Ancestry, but not all have images available.</p> <p>P/C – One big tree that anyone can change. Your work can be enhanced by others, but your work may also be damaged.</p>
<p><b>Geneanet.org</b></p> <p>(Used periodically to find information not on Ancestry or FamilySearch.)</p>	<p>Free version &amp; Premium Version (\$72 annually, including GST).</p> <p>Now owned by Ancestry, but kept separate.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>P – Free version to get family tree started.</p> <p>P – Elaborate privacy settings for individuals or levels of the tree.</p> <p>P/C – Premium version needed to get matches with other trees and available records.</p>
<p><b>MyHeritage.com</b></p> <p>(Tried it out for one year, primarily to find European DNA matches.</p> <p>I did not find many new original sources.)</p>	<p><u>Free version</u> – up to 250 people in tree, but no access to data.</p> <p><u>Premium \$169 annually</u> – up to 2500 people, but no access to data.</p> <p><u>PremiumPlus \$269 annually</u> – unlimited tree size, but no access to data.</p> <p><u>Data \$249 annually</u> – up to 250 people in tree, with data access.</p> <p><b><u>Complete \$389 annually</u> – unlimited tree size, access to data, and a photo enhancement service. (What I used.)</b></p> <p><u>Omni \$529 annually</u>, “Complete package” plus webinars, access to Oldnews.com and other features.</p>	<p>Extra one-time charge</p>	<p>P – DNA kits more popular in Europe.</p> <p>P/C – Access to Filea.com family trees information, popular in Europe.</p> <p>C – Expensive.</p> <p>C – Europeans DNA matches most often do not make their family tree visible, so it is difficult find common ancestors.</p> <p>C – Treats others’ family trees as records, rather than hints.</p> <p>C – If there are more than 250 people in the tree, and you do not renew, the tree will likely be deleted.</p>

## PC & Macintosh Computer Software

Product (How I use it)	Canadian Prices (September 2024)	Comments; Pros & Cons
<p><b>Family Tree Maker (FTM) for PC or Macintosh</b></p> <p>(Download Ancestry tree to FTM, as a backup.</p> <p>Used to standardize place names.</p> <p>Place name / person cross-reference reports used when accessing resources such as village family books or emigration lists.)</p>	<p>FTM 2019. Purchase price was \$121, including GST.</p> <p>New version expected in 2024; no firm release date; possibly at \$115 before tax.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mackiev.com/ftm/index.html">www.mackiev.com/ftm/index.html</a></p>	<p>Ancestry sold FTM software to MacKiev, a company in Ukraine. Office in Boston.</p> <p>P – Integrated with Ancestry.com.</p> <p>P – Many reports and charts not found in Ancestry</p> <p>C – Can be quirky when synchronizing with Ancestry.</p> <p>I recommend doing all the primary work in one of Ancestry or FTM, and then synchronizing the other – I downloaded the Ancestry tree to FTM as a backup. I standardized place names in FTM and then updated the Ancestry tree.</p> <p>C – FTM can also synchronize with FamilySearch; however, as the tree in FamilySearch is susceptible to tampering by anyone, I do not recommend doing this.</p>
<p><b>Reunion for Macintosh (no version for PC).</b></p> <p>(Document direct ancestors and their siblings only.</p> <p>Used for generating direct ancestor tree &amp; fan charts)</p>	<p>Version 14: US\$99 download from <a href="http://Leisterpro.com">Leisterpro.com</a>.</p> <p>New version upgrade every 3 to 5 years for USD49.95.</p>	<p>This is the first genealogy software that I have used. Consequently, I have some vested interest in continuing to use it.</p> <p>I have not done a feature comparison with Family Tree Maker; however, FTM is likely comparable from a charting and reporting perspective.</p> <p>P – Extensive charting and reporting capabilities.</p> <p>C – May be most appropriate for expert genealogists, as the feature-set is rich, and complex.</p>

## Recap & Suggestions

The comparisons above will likely leave you with many questions. If you are just starting out with genealogy software, it will give you an idea of the cost and some options available.

If you want a free tree builder, I would recommend Geneanet.org. The trees cannot be modified by anyone else, the privacy settings are extensive, and when you reach a roadblock, you can temporarily upgrade to the Premium version to access hints. Geneanet.org is popular in Europe (western Europe in particular), and many of its users have documented their families back to the 1500s. In my own case, I was able to solve the origin village question for four sets of my paternal 4<sup>th</sup> great grandparents, because of others' well-cited family trees and indexed Alsace records. I will be dropping back to the free version for my own work, as I have not learned anything new from Geneanet after the year 1700 for some time.

I recommend that everyone take advantage of the free FamilySearch.org. It has a lot of records, and you can leverage the work of others in the shared family tree. However, it is subject to tampering and errors by others, so it should only be a supplement to your chosen primary documentation tool.

I like Ancestry because of the collection of historical records and shared photographs. When combined with an Ancestry DNA test, I have found DNA matches that help prove I have documented my family tree correctly.

I do not like MyHeritage, because of the high cost and its frequent attempts to have me copy new people from others' family trees to get me over a 250-person limit – the result being if not renewed, the tree would likely be deleted. MyHeritage DNA tests are popular in Europe, but my European DNA matches most often hide their family trees. Hence, I have not really learned anything new from them. While I found a few unique historical record references on MyHeritage, they are indexes only with no image of the record. Often, the information in the image that is not indexed provides very valuable context.

Regarding Family Tree Maker (FTM) or Reunion for Macintosh, these two products are the primary choices for Mac users. Only FTM is available for the PC. For someone starting out who wants to keep the information on their own computer, the products are probably about equal in capabilities. FTM's capability to upload and synchronize with Ancestry is very important to me. I use FTM as a backup for, and complement to, Ancestry. Should anything happen to the Ancestry company, I have a copy of my documented research on my computer.

## Questions?

If you have any questions, send them to [hsgpv@telus.net](mailto:hsgpv@telus.net).

We will try to answer them for you, and perhaps create a follow-up article in future.



**AHSGR invites HSGPV Members to our traditional  
Christmas Potluck in mid-December.  
Announcement of details will be sent out soon.**







# HSGPV LIBRARY / INTERNET TREASURES! SCHÄTZE!



## Genealogy Chats

**Make Connections! Share Stories! Learn Something New!**  
**Last Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM -- In-Person & Zoom**

Genealogy Chats is an informal means for people to connect and learn from each other, promoting discussion of relevant topics for attendees.

The library will have topics available and welcomes any further suggestions.

**Come in person. Bring your coffee!**

Email HSGPV in advance and we'll send a Zoom link to participate.

**2024: November 28, December 19**

**2025: January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 29, June 26.**

**Topic suggestions:** HSGPV-SGGEE Connections; Navigating SGGEE website, existing & new; Resource overview: Wandering Volhynians, Wolhynische Hefte, Step Back in Time, Maps on site; Family Histories – tips & tricks, etc.

**Wandering Volhynians set** Digital version (PDF) available for \$50 CAD.



2 sets of gently used print copies of complete sets available for \$50.

Now available electronically at Product Category => Books



### IN THEIR WORDS: A GENEALOGIST'S TRANSLATION GUIDE TO POLISH, GERMAN, LATIN AND RUSSIAN DOCUMENTS.



HSGPV May 2023 Newsletter: provides descriptions of these valuable guides.



**HSGPV volunteers had its display at this event and enjoyed speaking to many people who had an interest in our area of research.**

**We appreciate the opportunity to connect.**

**We thank AGS and the Family History Centre for this event!**



**Edmonton Family History Fair**  
**Remembering**  
 Saturday, Oct. 19 | 9:00am - 3:30pm  
 Join Us for an Exciting Day of Discovery!

**Classes for All Levels:** Whether you're a beginner or an expert, there's something for everyone.

**Free Admission:** Get one-on-one help from experienced genealogists.

**Expert Assistance:** Experts from AGS and Alberta Archives will be available.

**Exclusive Resources:** Learn from 16 different talks throughout the day.

**Engaging Presentations:** Discover your roots and uncover your family history!

Located at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 Riverbend Stake Center | 14325 53 Ave NW, Edmonton

Don't Miss This! Scan Here for Registration!

### Comments from Attendees!

- **Excellent Presentations!**
- **Very well organized!**
- **Great topics!**
- **Great connections with people!**
- **Displays were relevant to my research!**
- **Flexible schedule! Lots of parking!**
- **Easy registration prior and for walk-ins!**
- **Wonderful venue!**
- **Something for everyone!**
- **Wonderful hosts!**
- **Enjoyable educational time!**

### Class Schedule Snapshot

#### Welcome & General Session

Getting Started with FamilySearch; Elevate Cemetery Sleuthing; Using Canadian Census Records to Find Your Ancestors; Create and Share Your Family History Through Videos

Provincial Archives of Alberta-Genealogy Gold; Your life story-A gift to generations; Family History Research for Beginners; Strategies for Organizing Research Material

Find Your Family's Story in Family Search's Digital Library; Beyond the Basics-Mastering DNA; FNMI The Indigenous Peoples of Canada; Chinese Genealogy

Family Search Wiki; A New Life For Old Family Photos; Protecting Sensitive Family Information in Genealogy; Cracking Crimes with Your DNA

MORE: Handouts, Large Document Scanner Help, FamilySearch Help, Display booths.

**Looking forward to Edmonton Family History Fair 2025!**

*HSGPV is happy to help with any genealogical endeavours!*