

Our speaker this month was Marilyn Holt, head of the Pennsylvania Department at the Carnegie Library in Oakland. She talked about Researching Ancestors in Eastern Europe but included a lot of basic internet research tips since they apply as much there as in this country. Since we've covered general topics in the past I'm not going into detail on them. You can view our web site where notes from all our meetings over the last year and a half reside. Just click on the link after the meeting description.

<http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society>

Specifically on Eastern Europe:

Ancestry.com makes a few of their European collections available to regular subscribers and free at any library in Allegheny County and at Family History Centers. To view their entire collection you have to upgrade your personal subscription to the World-Wide level.

Fold3.com has naturalization records for all of the Federal Courts in Western Pennsylvania and other areas. Those are a good place to find the town in Europe where your ancestor came from, the key to finding them in European records. It's available free at the Pennsylvania Department and Family History Centers.

Jewishgen.com, although mainly a database of Jewish records, also has some non-Jewish records. It also has very good information on the history of many towns, and a town finder to help you find that town and by what other names it went by in the past in different languages. Signup is required but it's free to use.

The Foundation for Eastern European History Studies (feefhs.org) has articles, links and maps to all the major Eastern European countries.

Roots to Roots Foundation (rtrfoundation.org) is another site with articles, links and maps.

Familysearch.org has the largest collection of records outside the United States including Eastern Europe. Although in the past these have required ordering and viewing microfilm, an increasing number are online, either indexed or available to browse a record at a time. Here's the direct link to all their collections, almost always by town: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list> Use the Filter box at the top left of the screen to get straight to your country or town.

One other map collection not mentioned in the meeting is David Rumsey (davidrumsey.com). It has 66,000 maps of countries and regions, very often at different points in time, so you can see what the area looked like when your ancestors lived there. Use the search box in the top right to see what's available for your area of interest.

Here's the link to the article on future support for the PC based software Family Tree Maker:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/02/02/good-news-for-users-of-family-tree-maker/>

Registration for the second session of GRIP Pittsburgh starts March 2nd. Registration for the first session is still open and some courses are still available.

http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1900

The Heinz History Center is having another of their excellent days on researching Irish Ancestors:

<http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/irish-genealogy-workshop-2016>

Marilyn graciously offered to assist any of our members who are looking for help finding their ancestors wherever they lived. You can contact her at padept@carnegielibrary.org