



Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A., is a freelance writer, instructor, and internationally recognized lecturer, specializing in Eastern European research and writing your family history. She is the author of eleven books and hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa works as an online educator and writing coach, and developed the Eastern European Research Certificate Program for the International Institute of Genealogical Studies. Visit <https://www.lisaalzo.com> for more information.

"Ten Things Every Eastern European Genealogist Should Know"

Learn how to maximize your Eastern European genealogy research with the ten key things to know before you even begin. Topics to be addressed: Tips for planting your family tree online, determining names and places, pinpointing places, the best online databases for getting what you need and practices for citing sources and recording information, and what to expect when you cross the pond.

"Make Those Skeletons Dance: Exploring Your Family's Dark Side"

How well do you really know your ancestors? Most of us want to believe our ancestors were hard-working, noble, or "salt-of-the-earth" types. We want to like them, and even brag about them. However, the reality is that if we go back far enough, we all can dig up a few proverbial "skeletons in the closet." The horse thief, the philanderer, the murderer! Oh my! Genealogy is one of the most unpredictable activities you'll undertake, and when you start digging into your family's past, "You never know what you're gonna get." If you suspect a few black sheep lurking in your family tree, this session will show you, with examples, how to hunt them down, bust through the speculation, and tell the real story.

"Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future"

There are a handful of "cluster" immigrant communities throughout the United States that blossomed during the immigration influx of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Exploring "cluster genealogy"—the process of researching those relatives, friends, and neighbors who lived near an ancestor—can often break down brick walls in the search for individual family lines and help to place our ancestors' lives in historical context. For those descendants who've moved away from such traditional immigrant enclaves, 21st-century technology can be used to rebuild "cluster communities" in the virtual world. This lecture will cover: How to identify chain migrations/cluster communities using key records; ways to share and collaborate with other researchers, and the benefits, pitfalls, and obstacles associate with a shift to "virtual" cluster communities; and how to use tools such as social networking sites, Wikis, etc. build online genealogical communities.

OCGS Web Site www.ocgsny.org

Orange County Genealogical Society

www.ocgsny.org

ALL-DAY ZOOM SEMINAR

Saturday, 3 May 2025

Zoom Host: Cyndi Ingle

Seminar Presenter: Lisa Ann Alzo, M.F.A.

Reservation Fee: \$20.00 see form below

Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:00 am "Ten Things Every Eastern European Genealogist Should Know"

Q&A with 15-minute Break

Session 2: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm "Make Those Skeletons Dance: Exploring Your Family's Dark Side"

Q&A with 45-Minute Lunch Break

Session 3: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm "Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future"

Q&A Close of Seminar

**If you choose not to attend all sessions the day of the seminar there will be a
30-day Link to all sessions**

Please turn over for information about our speaker and programs

Mail Reservation Form to: OCGS, 2025 ZOOM Seminar, 101 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924

Please register early to ensure your snail mail is received in time for us to send you the E-Invite

Deadline for reservations: 19 April 2025

Registration Fee: \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Phone: (required) _____

Email: (required) _____

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