

ABOUT ALEX:

Alexander Tolkstdorf began his personal genealogical journey in high school, inspired by a trip to Ellis Island and through a correspondence with his great uncle in Germany, who also was an active family historian. All four of his grandparents immigrated to the United States in the 1950s following the Second World War; as such, the majority of his research experience and focus is in European sources. Paternally, his family is German, primarily from the Prussian provinces of Westphalia, Posen, and East Prussia. Maternally, his family roots are Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Lithuanian. Thus far, Alex has uncovered and actively researches family lines in Ukraine, Germany, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, and Russia. Through this work, he has become very comfortable with research in these counties; including overcoming the language barriers, lack of online record access, and lost or missing records. He relies on civil, church, and a plethora of other records for his research, and finds that all provide illumination and the tools to break down brick walls. Alex believes that standard records only tell part of the story, with the many additional forms of documentation providing color and texture to a family history.

Alex enjoys his work as a financial analyst at the Ford Motor Company, and is a former President of the Ford Genealogy Club. He is also active in the Ukrainian-American community of Metro Detroit, serving as a former treasurer of the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, the treasurer and circulation manzzzzzzzager of the Detroitki Novyny, the local community newspaper, the chairperson of the Supervisory Committee of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Michigan Federal Credit Union, and a board member of the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum. During his spare time when he is not researching, Alex enjoys walking and exercising with his wife, Katelyn, and their dog, as well as working on his car, a 2014 Ford Mustang GT.

Alex is an Accredited Genealogist (AG[®]), credentialed by the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen[™]) for the Germany – East region.



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**BASED IN
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI**

MEMBER OF



ICAPGen
The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists



**SOCIETY OF
AMERICAN
ARCHIVISTS**

**GENEALOGICAL
SPEAKERS GUILD**



TOLKSDORF
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH



ALEXANDER TOLKSDORF, AG[®]

A professional genealogical researcher specializing in the archives of Germany, the Netherlands, and Eastern Europe, Alex breaks down the brick walls of navigating complex international records, and brings your ancestors' stories to life.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH / ASSISTANCE:

How can Alex help you further your genealogical research or expand your family story? Alex has expertise researching in Germany, Netherlands, and Eastern Europe and will begin a project with the specific goals a client has or questions the client wants answered. From there, Alex will request copies of all previously acquired documentation and work with the client to develop a research plan. The client retains full control of the hours spent on the project and the direction of research. Please contact Alex for an initial consultation.



PRESENTATIONS / WORKSHOPS:

Alex enjoys sharing the information that he has learned through his research and has several presentations he provides regularly. If your genealogical society is interested in a presentation not listed here, please contact Alex to discuss your needs as he is often able to customize and/or easily create a new presentation for your group! Base price is \$125 for an hour long presentation including Q&A, and fees include mileage and travel expense, please contact Alex for further information, or visit his page at the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

- Researching in German Civil and Parish Records
- Introduction to Ukrainian Genealogy
- Tracing Your Dutch Roots
- Tracing Your Belarusian roots
- Exploring German Handwriting
- Maximizing Research Success in the Arolsen Archives
- Eastern European Genealogy for Beginners
- How to Get Your Family Engaged in Your Research

RECENT ENGAGEMENTS: (2024-2026)

- Lansing Family History Seminar (April 2026)
- Livingston County Genealogical Society (April 2026)
- Heritage Quest Research Library (March 2026)
- Colorado Chapter Palatines to America – Fall Seminar (November 2025)
- Eaton County Genealogical Society (August 2025)
- Canton Public Library (July 2025)
- Northville Genealogical Society (June 2025)
- Fox Run Genealogical Society (May, October 2025)
- Lansing Family History Seminar (April 2025)
- Dearborn Genealogical Society (March 2025)
- Genealogical Forum of Oregon – Open House (March 2025)
- East European Genealogical Society (January 2025)
- Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (October 2024)
- Brighton District Library – Genealogy After Hours (October 2024)
- Heritage Quest Research Library (September 2024)
- Lansing Family History Seminar (April 2024)
- Muskegon County Genealogical Society (January 2024)
- Ventura County Genealogical Society (January 2024)