

BESSARABIA Using the Library and Archives at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC for researching Bessarabia

Dale Pastor, April 2014

A good way to begin is by searching the rapidly growing collections catalog online which yields over 400 hits for Bessarabia.

Librarian Megan Lewis suggests using the most modern town names when searching. Refer to two talks she gave at the IJGS Boston Conference 2013 for more instructions. (see notes 1 and 2 below)

For the town of Kamenka, for example, on the Kehila Links page, we have one oral interview listed on the webpage. With this search, we discover that there are eight from the Shoah Foundation. Interviews are in Russian with no translation or transcript at this time, however, the indexing tells a lot about places and people.

There is a large collection of books, increasing to such an extent that the library has recently been rearranged to add many more bookcases. For example, for those interested in Khotin, (and lately, there was some discussion about that town online on the Bessarabia listserve), see "Burning Ice", a volume that details the march to Transnistria camps by a survivor.

LINKS

Plan a visit:

<http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit>

"Search the Collections" is on the Web at:

<http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/search-the-collections>

NOTES Descriptions of lectures given by Megan Lewis at the IAJGS conference in Boston August,2013)

1. **Finding Information About Your Family in Postwar Resources at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum holds an abundance of postwar materials that include family history information including the case files ("T/D files") from the International Tracing Service. Other records include written testimonies, restitution files, transcripts from war crimes trials, self-published and unpublished memoirs and access to over 60,000 oral histories. The ITS case files are an ongoing acquisition and can be particularly useful. This presentation will demonstrate how to find sources relevant to your family, even if the information isn't specifically about your family.

2. **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's New Collections Catalog and Holocaust Research** Conducting research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum can be challenging because of the sheer volume and wide variety of resources available. This presentation will provide a suggested framework on how to plan research at the Museum and demonstrate our new Collections Catalog available at <http://collections.ushmm.org/search/>. I will discuss how to use the International Tracing Service (ITS) records, Archives collections, the Library's holdings and other resources. The presentation will include practical information such as what research can be done from home, what to do before you arrive and what to bring with you. Both people new to Holocaust research and those who have conducted research at the Museum before will learn tips to make their research smoother.