

SGGEE Newsletter aka Electronic Bulletin - July 25, 2003

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

SGGEE is approaching the end of it's fifth year as a formally chartered genealogical society.

All members should be proud of their society's accomplishments, particularly the contents of the SGGEE web site, and more recently, the inauguration of our own Listserve.

The past year, through the diligent volunteer work of Gary Warner on the web site databases and the fine stewardship of the Research Committee by Rosemarie Ingram, there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of church record data available to members in the Pedigree Database (PD) and the Parish Record Index (PRI).

The volunteer contribution of three dozen other SGGEE members , (even non members) is also a major contributing factor to the SGGEEs successful growth. Volunteers are involved in a variety of tasks, such as Jack Milner's work in organizing a convention web site, Karl Krueger's innovative use of a digital camera to photograph microfilm contents, Bill Fife as editor of the Journal and Jerry Frank's administration of the Listserve. The list could go on. A heartfelt "thank you" to every volunteer.

In recent months SGGEE has been made aware of, and acquired copies of, 20th century unfiled Lutheran marriage, death and birth records from Volhynia.

Assistance has been granted to the Zhitomir archives in the form of computer equipment to expedite the construction of databases from former KGB records compiled during the terrible years of Communist persecution. It is hoped to make this hitherto unavailable information available in some manner to our membership in the near future.

SGGEE's financial situation is in excellent condition under the guidance of Irwin Feldcher, our Finance Committee Chairman. Slightly over fifteen thousand dollars (Canadian) has been invested and set aside in a reserve fund.

This is but a very brief comment on our society. Admittedly it is intended to maintain and increase the esprit de corp within the membership.

We have a great and genuinely unique society with unlimited

potential. However, we can always use new members so when the occasion arises, convince your friends and relatives of similar ethnic backgrounds and family interests to join SGGEE. The rewards for all of us will be boundless.

Sincerely,
John E. Marsch
President SGGEE

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SURPRISE VISITOR

A surprise visitor to our Convention in Edmonton this year will be Olga Skrynska from Rovno. In Rovno, Olga served as a guide and interpreter for the tours from North America since 1993; as well she has assisted in working to obtain Genealogical information from the Archives in Rovno. Olga has taught English for many years and as a result speaks an impeccable English.

In serving as an interpreter she has also visited many of the Volhynian villages in which our forefathers lived. We welcome the opportunity to show her our country and learn more about Volhynia as it is today.

Howard Krushel

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LIFE IN VOLHYNIA STORIES

Last call before the August SGGEE convention begins for short stories of Life in Volhynia and copies of photos taken over there during the years your parents/grandparents lived there. Either email or bring with you to the convention.

We want to accumulate all that we can so that in another year or so a booklet can be prepared of all that are collected. New and younger Volhynia researchers would benefit greatly from learning and seeing just what it was like "over there" so many years ago. Please share what you know so others can enjoy.

Pictures will be displayed at convention time and then placed in a permanent notebook file for the SGGEE Library collection. Please identify place, date (if possible) plus names of people if any portrayed. Best size? 8x10 or 5x7 - none smaller. Appreciate clear, sharp black & white (best for reproducing). It is always interesting to see clothing customs our ancestors had at that time.

When at convention do stop by the Research Room and say hello. Questions? Email me at GVLESS@aol.com

Virginia Less
CoOrdinator

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - ALTERNATIVE NAMES LISTS

As we merge more and more names in the Pedigree database, it becomes ever more vital that we understand both alternate given names and alternate surnames. An understanding of these alternates is the only way that we can complete meaningful merges of data so that we can help you discover who your ancestors are. We have already developed a first draft of both alternate given names and alternate surnames. You can see them under the heading

Alternate Christian and Alternate Surname Lists
at <http://sggee.org/TranslationHelps>. The lists are however incomplete, and need to be revised and enlarged. We are looking for volunteers to help us do that as follows:

1. We can provide a volunteer a complete listing of the surnames in the SGGEE Pedigree database. Only a small portion of those names show alternates. The volunteer would need to go through that list and add any new name alternates not already in the Alternate Surname List. Access to and knowledge of how to use any word processor is all that is required. We will offer assistance in proofing the names to be added to the master list.
2. We have a pdf file that has many thousands of given name variations. Unfortunately, the list includes alternates for languages that we do not use, so it needs to be pared down to include only English, Polish and Russian equivalents. Access to and knowledge of how to use any word processor is all that is required. Again, we will offer assistance in proofing the names to be added to the master list.

Please contact databases@sggee.org if you wish to help or need more information.

Gary Warner
Co-Webmaster

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Less than two weeks remain until the start of the SGGEE convention (8 - 10 August). If you plan to attend, but have not yet mailed your registration, please email convention@sggee.org providing the basic information such as your name(s), postal address, email address, number of people attending, whether you wish to attend the banquet and finally, some of the key names and places you are researching.

Payment for registration and banquet can be made at the registration desk in Edmonton if you register by email. Your registration kit will be waiting for you. Accommodation must be arranged privately.

Details of the convention and costs can be found at <http://members.shaw.ca/sgecvn/> and on the SGGEE web site home page at www.sggee.org under "Plans for August 2003 Convention".

John Marsch
SGGEE Convention Committee

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Rose Ingram
Corresponding Secretary
contact@sggee.org