

E- Newsletter – December 2007

From the Research Corner

databases@sggee.org

A Research report from August 2007 convention will appear in the upcoming December Journal, explaining slow but steady progress on various projects.

At this time I would like to let the membership know about the set back with obtaining filmed records on CD's from Salt Lake, so that we could index these records at home. To stay within the boundaries of legalities, the people in Salt Lake City need the approval from the Direktor of State Archives in Poland. They are actually using SGGEE's request (made many months ago) as a negotiating tool. So far they have not received approval (politics being what they are in Poland). It is frustrating, but we just keep waiting.

About 2 or 3 years ago several members offered to help with the indexing of any records that would become available on CD or DVD, primarily so this work could be done at home. Would those who volunteered, or any one else who has extra time, please consider volunteering on one of the following projects outlined below.

Rose Ingram – Research Committee chair.

Lublin Digital Indexing Project - Helpful capabilities are to read handwritten German, and a computer that can read DVDs. People with interests in the Lublin region are particularly encouraged for this project. Indexing involves entering data into a spreadsheet. Please contact project coordinator Karl Krueger at dabookk54@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating in this project or desire more information.

A start has been made on a project to extract the St. Petersburg records for Kiev similar to that already completed Volhynia and Podolia. Approximately 30 percent of the pertinent pages have already been photocopied from LDS films leaving about 800 pages to do. After the photocopying has reached completion, it will be necessary to translate and transcribe the data onto work sheets (from German to English). The work sheets will then be given to volunteers to enter the data onto spreadsheets. Once this project is complete, SGGEE will have extracts of all the St. Petersburg data (up to 1885) from western Ukraine. It should be noted that many of our German ancestors lived Volhynia, but considerable number also ended up in the Podolia and Kiev. Please contact project coordinator John Marsch at gpvjem@sasktel.net if you can participate in this project by photocopying pages from LDS films or by extracting the data from the photocopies. A

database will be prepared from the work sheets and put on the SGGEE website. All expenses, such as film rental, photocopying, postage etc., incurred by volunteers will be reimbursed by SGGEE.

In summary; volunteers are requested for all three phases, photocopying, extraction/translation onto work sheets and finally data input.

Members are reminded that the submission of their personal pedigrees to databases@sggee.org will often produce family connections that were not considered possible, such as finding 4th and 5th cousins for example. You may think that you have covered all “the ground” available to you in your research, but by computer matching using the master Pedigree Database maintained by SGGEE’s database manger Gary Warner, you will often find you have many additional relatives or connections.

All sizes of pedigrees are acceptable, but the greater the size the better chances of the chance of finding other connections. Be sure to include yourself in the pedigree submitted so that and relatives found can be “tied” to you. If possible, pedigrees submitted in GEDCOM format that can be prepared from practically all genealogical programs are appreciated, but if they are not too extensive, well laid out pedigrees on paper are just as welcome. SGGEE has a volunteer that will convert the latter into GEDCOM format so that they can be easily merged and matched in the master Pedigree Database. The master Pedigree Database now consists of well over 400 thousand names.

If you haven’t done so yet please consider submitting your pedigree.

Members are once again reminded to inform membership@sggee.org of email and other contact information changes. Generally there has been very good cooperation in this respect. Information, such as the E-Newsletter can be passed along to all members with fewer email “bounces” to resolve with up to date email addresses.

Thank you for your support in 2007 but don't forget to renew your 2008 SGGEE membership! Time flies!

**A very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year
From the SGGEE Board of Directors and Administrators**