

SGGEE E-Newsletter

May 2006

Notes from the Research Corner.

Receipt of new data has been a little slow over the winter, but our volunteers are working very diligently on their assignments. These projects include

Lemke Records – recorded in 1941-1943 in Zhitomir area

Expelled and Rehabilitated Persons Records from Zhitomir Archives – 1890's to 1937, about one third of the data has been translated with more data due to arrive later this year from Zhitomir.

KGB Records from Zhitomir Archives – 1930's, translation is still in progress and since this is a very big project it will be some time before completion.

Some members have offered to extract what German names they have run across from various Catholic Records in Congress Poland area, covering records from late 1700's to about 1825, before the Lutheran churches were established. These names are or will be added to the Pedigree Database in due time.

Indexing of various Lutheran records from microfilm continues by volunteers.

We still are awaiting word from the Indexing Co-ordinators at Salt Lake City about getting filmed records on CD's. Requests have been made for specific records, but matters are still moving very very slowly. My guess is that we will receive these CD's perhaps late summer or autumn.

I hope all the volunteers who signed up for this project can be patient a little while longer.

Rose Ingram

Research Co-Ordinator

databases@sggee.org.

Database Changes

"Since the completion of the merge of the SGGEE001r6 data with the main database earlier this year, we have been concentrating on making surname variations into a common form to facilitate further merging of the data. This is necessary since, if the spelling of the surname is not the same for about the first five letters, our merging program cannot see them as equivalents. We have thus been looking at each of the more than 40,000 different surnames in the database and are now adding to them and arranging them in a manner that generally presents the most common version of a name first- at least according to the current German telephone book. For instance, Kuehn has been made the first in the list of alternate names for Kuehn or Kihn or Kun or Kien or Kuhn or Kyhn. Where someone has only supplied one of those surnames, say Kuhn, we have

added the name Kuehn in front of that surname. This process has yielded some interesting discoveries about the evolution of surnames. The evolution of surnames that contain a vowel with an umlaut over it (" ä,ö, and ü) is one example, since it would appear that "ä" has evolved into "ae" and "e", and more infrequently "e". Similarly, ö has evolved into "oe", "o" and frequently "e". Finally, "ü" seems to have evolved into "ue", "u", and sometimes "y". Another example of name combinations that we are working on is the combining the German surnames with their Polish equivalents. Thus all of the Krul surnames are being preceded by Koenig, Schwarz precedes Czarnecki, etc. We have made a best guess on some of these name combinations.

You will see the above noted changes when you do searches in the next few months, hopefully before our August conference. When you see the name variations, perhaps of your own name, please remember that our databases are not meant to be the last word in how to spell a surname. Our databases are instead intended to be a finding tool, and a learning tool for all of us. "

Gary Warner
Database Manager

Website Information

The SGGEE home page and a couple of explanatory pages are now available in Portuguese at http://www.sggee.org/index_por.html . We are also getting the same 3 pages done in Spanish and it will be available soon. Once we have that, I will provide 2 additional flags on our English homepage to link to them.

Jerry Frank - Calgary, Alberta

Convention Reminder

It is not too early to register for the SGGEE convention, in fact registrations are already being received. The Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton South, has set aside a limited block of rooms for convention attendees at a convention rate therefore it would be advantageous to make your reservation early if you need accommodation.

Convention details, including speakers' topics and their bios may be viewed at SGGEE's home page at www.sggee.org Click on Convention at the top of the page.

If further information is required, please email convention@sggee.org