

SGGEE Electronic Newsletter

10 November 2003

The SGGEE Convention Committee is pleased to announce that the Coast Plaza Hotel in Calgary Alberta has been chosen as the convention site for 2004. The dates selected are August 5 through the 8th.

The theme of the convention is entitled "A Road Less Traveled"

The theme is described by Jerry Frank as follows;

Some genealogical researchers have a relatively simple task. They trace their ancestry to a small area of England and within short order can trace their ancestry back several hundred years. Our research path is a "Road Less Traveled", all thanks to the road much traveled by our ancestors through east central Europe. We must cope with vast distances, numerous languages, and many political systems which change through both distance and time. Please join us as we take you on a virtual genealogical journey in the search of your ancestors. From packing your bags with basic research principals through detailed planning and technical research, and on to modern day visits to the Heimatland - using a research room, speakers, and workshops - our convention will guide you through the process of finding your ancestors. Who knows - you may even experience some ethnic food along the way. And while our focus will be the Germans who lived in Russian Poland and Volhynia, you will probably also find clues to researching other nearby areas as well.

Further convention details will be published as they develop on the SGGEE web site, the Journal and this Electronic newsletter and other media routes. Watch for convention registration forms and other information in those locations as well. Don't miss this convention, it promises to be the best ever!!

Virginia Less, a former Board member, is once again appealing to those who have lived in Poland, and Volhynia to their descendants, for stories relating to their life in those areas. Please assist in this very worthwhile project if you can.

Here is what she has written;

Once again a call is out for SGGEE members to share what they know on the village(s)/region(s) of their ancestors in order for us to develop pages for the SGGEE website that will help others know about their ancestral homes. Also, if you have a personal website that would describe a village or region that you have found that tells about your ancestral village let us know where it can be found. From time to time inquiries come to us seeking this information. It would be helpful if SGGEE could compile a simple page or two on a village/region to refer new researchers to. Pictures also welcome. Please send this to me directly so it can be compiled and further directed. Please grant permission for what you have to be printed for others to use. Information on sources you have used also important. It is hoped this specific webpage will be available early in 2004. Your sharing of information will be most helpful.

*Virginia Less, Village/Region Coordinator Committee Chair
E-mail: GVLESS@aol.com*

Stories of Life in Volhynia - still looking for a page or two of your personal stories that family members have shared with you on what their life was like in Volhynia. Again, we want to be able to share them with those who have not been as fortunate as you to know what their ancestors' lives may have been like before they immigrated.

Share what you have by sending it to me. Provide your permission for eventual publishing in either the SGGEE Journal or a special booklet highlighting all the stories we receive. E-mail: GVLESS@aol.com

Snail mail: Virginia Less, 503 Ridgewood, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5016

Those of you who attended the 2003 convention in Edmonton may recall a motion passed by the membership to provide some tangible form of appreciation to Matt Warner for his several years of dedicated work in setting up and maintaining the SGGEE web site. It is one of the better genealogical web sites to be found on the Internet. It was discovered that Matt is an avid photographer as well as being a computer professional, therefore a gift certificate for \$500 dollars (US), purchased from B&H Photo, was presented to him in appreciation for his work as webmaster.

Part of his thank you message follows;

Today I was pleasantly surprised to receive the B&H Photo gift certificate from you on behalf of SGGEE. It is great to feel appreciated. I enjoy providing what service I can to the group, and find it gratifying to see that others find it useful.

Thank you again Matt, from all SGGEE members.

This newsletter presents an opportunity to remind all members that in December is the month of membership expiration unless you have prepaid in advance for 2004 and beyond. If you are uncertain whether you have prepaid beyond this year or you have any questions regarding membership, please email membership@sggee.org. Membership dues are \$40 in Canada or \$30 (US) if you live elsewhere. A renewal form is not absolutely essential. A check/cheque for the correct amount is acceptable with a small note attached indicating the payment is a renewal of membership. A renewal form does serve an important function however, because it gives you the opportunity to provide us with updated information.

The December issue of the Journal is in its final stages of preparation. It has as always, some extremely informative articles. Watch for it!!

End