

# *SGGEE Electronic Newsletter*

November 2006

## **RESEARCH CORNER**

### **Unique Opportunity with Trinity Lutheran Church in Lublin**

In early 2004 the LDS had scanned the archives of the Lutheran church in Lublin as part of a new effort to institute a new digital platform for dispersal of genealogical records available via the Family History Centers. Since that time this promising development for access to Lublin records has seemed to stall among the vast array of issues the LDS faces in trying to digitalize their entire microfilm collection. To abide by an agreement made with the Lutheran Consistory Office in Warsaw, complete sets of the Lublin records were provided on 75 DVDs to the Warsaw Consistory and to the church in Lublin.

We are glad to report that SGGEE has gained approval of the church board in Lublin to assist the church in making this digital archive functional for the church and for genealogy researchers. SGGEE will provide funds to allow the church to be equipped with an updated computer that can read and write DVDs. The files on the DVDs have no particular organization to them other than one disk corresponding to one parish book. Volunteers from SGGEE will thus index records from these disks so that specific information from individual records (type of record, key names, date, town) will be extracted into a spreadsheet with the corresponding filenames and DVD volumes. The result will be a directory where church staff can easily find digital files of specific records that researchers request. The directory will thus reveal information on which families exist in their archives.

More detail will be provided in an article of an upcoming Journal (possibly March). Anyone interested to volunteer for this extraction project are welcome, particularly if your ancestry brings you to the Lublin province. Interested volunteers should email the research committee using the subject line "Lublin volunteer work" at [databases@sggee.org](mailto:databases@sggee.org) Equipment necessary will be a DVD drive on your computer, a good quality monitor for clarity of reading records, and a Spreadsheet program. Most records are expected to be in handwritten Cyrillic so this project is not for the faint-hearted. We can provide some level of training to learn how to extract important information from these records. Note that you can do this work in the comfort of your home.

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## **Membership Hints**

It is that time of year where many genealogical societies are encouraging their members to renew their memberships for the forthcoming calendar year, SGGEE is among them.

In the past, I have often received emails from members who, understandably, may not remember if they prepaid their membership or renewed for the next year. There is a simple way to determine the status of your membership that I'll describe to you. It is as follows;

At the SGGEE Home Page move your mouse cursor to the top right hand corner to Members Only and a little menu will appear. Click on Member Contact then enter your user name and password when requested. A page entitled "Search the Membership Index" will appear on which you can enter either your SGGEE ID number or your surname (or both). Be sure to select whether you want the search to be done by ID number or surname. Eureka!! When the search is completed you can see when your membership expires, whether your name is spelled correctly and if the correct email address is shown. As a matter of fact, if you want to find the email or postal address of another SGGEE member, enter their surname. Former members may not have kept their contact information current by informing the Membership Committee of changes, but otherwise this data you find on current memberships is updated every week or ten days, sometimes more often.

**This is a round about way to remind you that SGGEE memberships expire at the end of December. On behalf of the Board of Directors I sincerely thank those who have renewed their memberships for 2007 and those also who have prepaid for some years beyond 2007. Yearly membership dues have not changed. They remain at \$40 (CDN) for Canadian residents, \$30 (US) for US residents and 30 Euros (or \$30 US) for residents of the European Union. A newly revised Renewal Form is available for downloading on the SGGEE website.**

**Have you thought of a SGGEE membership as an enduring Christmas gift for a genealogical minded friend or relative with the same ancestral background as ours? What could be better?**