Responsibilities of the Database Committee

The Database Committee is responsible for gathering, creating, and maintaining all of the electronic databases owned or utilized by SGGEE, and for making them available to all SGGEE members who have the ability to view the SGGEE website.   All of the databases of SGGEE are for the purpose of making family research easier to perform, more complete, and to help SGGEE members find other SGGEE members who are related to them. In order to not duplicate work, the Database Committee must coordinate its activities with several of the other committees of SGGEE, and is therefore composed of at least the following individuals:

1. The Database Manager
2. The Research Committee Chairman
3. The SGGEE Director assigned to oversee the database committee
4. All volunteers who maintain a specific database

A. What are the databases at present, and who maintains them?

1. The Master Pedigree Database

This database contains data from original Polish records, and also from the research of our members.   It currently contains 444,796 names and is a linked database in GEDCOM format. Thus most of the records are linked to spouses, parents and children over many generations.   Gary Warner currently maintains this database.

2. The Parish Records Index

This database is a listing of individual birth, marriage, death, and confirmation records extracted from original records in Poland.   It currently contains 274,932 names in spreadsheet format, and is an unlinked database in that each line of data may show parents or spouse or a specific child, but the lines of data are not linked to each other.   Gary Warner currently maintains this database.

3. The Alternate Surnames List

This database is a listing of all of the alternate surnames used in the SGGEE Master Pedigree Database in word processor format.   It is useful for members in determining what names their ancestors might have used in Poland or Russia as the result of their original surnames being corrupted to change to the Polish or Russian equivalent of the German name.   For instance, the surname Schwarz (meaning the color black) has the Polish equivalent of Czarnecki.   There are substantiated alternates- those confirmed by others who have not just submitted names to the Master Pedigree Database. There are also unsubstantiated alternates- those submitted by SGGEE members which may or may not be true alternates. The substantiated alternate names database is currently 7 pages of double column text.   The unsubstantiated alternate names database is currently 218 pages of single column text that show the unsubstantiated alternates. Antje Mass currently maintains this database.

4. The SGGEE001x database

This is a database of family linked data created exclusively from original Polish records (mostly Lutheran, and also a growing number of Catholic records) of the

births, marriages and deaths of people of German origin, and covers many of the parishes of central Poland.   This latest version of this database is provided by Al Muth each year.   The current version of that database is SGGEE001r8, and contains 164,869 in GEDCOM format.

5. The Lodz Trinity database

This is a database of original Polish records for the Lodz area, as input by John Marsch from transcriptions of the original Polish Lutheran records of the Lodz Trinity church.   It is now complete and contains 34,492 names in GEDCOM format.   This database is now a part of the Master Pedigree database, and will eventually be merged with the Master Pedigree Database.

6. The membership database

This is a database in spreadsheet format presently maintained by John Marsch that contains the contact data for all present and former members of SGGEE.   It is updated several times a month.

7. The St. Petersburg birth, marriage and death indices (Volhynia and Podolia)

This is a database in spreadsheet format that has been extracted from the St. Petersburg records for Volhynia.   It contains data on the births, marriages and deaths of Lutherans who lived in Volhynia between 1836 and 1885 and contains approximately 70,600 names.   A cleanup of the marriage records to correct known errors occurred in 2006, and a similar cleanup of the birth and death records will also likely occur at some point.   Gary Warner currently maintains this database

8. Galicia Index of Individuals

This is a database in spreadsheet format of people who lived in various villages in Galicia.   It contains birth, marriage and death data of the villagers and their ancestors.   The database is very extensive and was prepared by Bill Fife, and has remained unchanged in the last several years.

9.   History Books Database

Many of the areas in which our ancestors settled in Canada and the USA have produced history books of the area, variously called Centennial books, Anniversary books, Jubilee books etc., which describe or tell about the original settlers in these areas.   This database, in spreadsheet format, is a listing of the books (and the individuals in the books) held by either our members, or in the SGGEE Library. This database currently contains 23,574 names (unchanged in the last several years). Gary Warner currently maintains this database.

10. Library materials database

Howard Krushel has made a listing in word processor format of all of the materials in the SGGEE library.   He is the custodian and maintainer of that list.

11. Lublin Parish Original Lutheran Records Database

This database, in spreadsheet format, has been created in cooperation with the Lutheran Parish of Lublin. All of that parish's records were filmed by the Family History Library, but the digital copies of the filming were given back to the Lublin parish with no indices. SGGEE offered to index all of the records and host those indices on the SGGEE website so that people all over the world can order copies of the original records held by the parish. The parish has agreed to our proposal and this is a work in progress in the year 2008. Karl Krueger maintains this database.

B. How is each database maintained?

1. The Master Pedigree Database

The database is updated by adding new data received from both SGGEE member's personal files, and also by adding databases of complete extractions of parish records prepared by SGGEE volunteers. The Master Pedigree Database is a family linked database. In order to use the database to find relationships between the many SGGEE members, many of whom are cousins, it is therefore necessary to remove all duplicates that may arise when new data is added from importation of new data. The process of removing duplicates is called merging of data, serves the dual purposes of making the data more complete for each person in the database, and also provides specific familial relationships, which greatly adds to the gathering of family data for many members of SGGEE. As new data is merged, the results of the merge are returned to the SGGEE member submitting the data, including a GEDCOM file of all persons related to that member. Member privacy is to be assured at all times, so both the data on the website, and the GEDCOM files sent to members will exclude all personal data, except names, for persons under 80 years of age.

2. The Parish Records Index

The parish records index is added to when volunteers extract data from original parish records. Whether data is added to the Parish Records List (Excel file) or the Master Pedigree Database (GEDCOM file) is based on whether the data so extracted includes all data in the original record, or just the name in the record. The former gets added to the Master Pedigree Database, and the later to the Parish Records Index.

3. The Alternate Surnames List

The alternate surnames list is updated by annually comparing the master surname list in the Master Pedigree Database to the alternate surnames lists currently in service. If the alternate name added to a list is substantiated by finding it listed by recognized sources, then it is added to the Substantiated Alternate Surnames List. All other alternate names are added to the Unsubstantiated Alternate Surnames List

4. The SGGEE001x database

The database is maintained by Al Muth by adding new data each year.   The updated database is added to the Master Pedigree Database on an annual basis. The Master Pedigree Database is updated by first deleting <u>only</u> those SGGEE001x records that are not already combined with data from other members, and then adding back in the entire new SGGEE001x database.

5. The Lodz Trinity database

This database is now complete, and no maintenance of the database is required.

6. The membership database

The membership database is maintained by adding new member information as soon as applications for membership are received.   The database is also updated when changes are received from the members.   The database includes all persons who have ever been a member of SGGEE (including those now deceased), since the database is an important means of contacting people found to be related to each other in the Master Pedigree Database. This database is also used to invite former members to re-join SGGEE from time to time.

7. The St. Petersburg birth, marriage and death indices (Volhynia and Podolia)

The database is complete, although it is known to contain errors.   The marriage records were reformatted in 2007 to make the presentation of the data consistent, and that all records have been included that were filmed, but no checking of the accuracy of the data input has been undertaken- these marriage records have been uploaded to the website for viewing.   Dick Stein is currently reformatting the Excel files that contain the births and deaths by moving the data to the correct columns, and by looking for missing records that were filmed.   When he finishes his work, the data will again be uploaded to the website for viewing.

8. Galicia Index of Individuals

The database can be added to by Bill Fife at any time by updating the database to include more names. Bill provides new pdf files of his database for uploading to the website for viewing.

9. History Books Database

The History Books database is updated by adding new lists of names to the current list when the indices of new history books are submitted for inclusion in the database.   Each name in the database is associated with the name of a local history book, the locale of the history book, and the location of the original history book.   A special text file is used to upload the data to the website for viewing

10. Library materials database

The SGGEE Librarian, currently Howard Krushel, updates the list by adding materials acquired by the library.   He does so at least annually.   The list notes the name and author of each item, and provides a brief description of the contents of the item.   The list is uploaded to the website for viewing.

11. Lublin Parish Original Lutheran Records Database

Once the database is completed, there should be no maintenance.