

SGGEE Electronic Newsletter

16 December 2005

From the President

Thank you to all of the officers, committees and members for making 2005 a very successful year for SGGEE. A special thank you for the vital role that you, as members, play in the life of SGGEE. Your support, enthusiasm, and dedication have made a significant contribution to our genealogical and historical mission.

A special thank you to Bill Fife for his outstanding contributions as editor of the Journal

since its inception seven years ago. Under his leadership, the Journal has grown to be recognized by members and non-members alike for the quality publication that it is. In addition to his work with the Journal, Bill found time to serve as a Director and as President in 2000/01. Bill's contributions are very much appreciated and we look forward to his continuing involvement in the Society.

I am pleased to announce that Earl Schultz will be the new editor of the SGGEE Journal effective January 1, 2006. We wish Earl well in this important task and we are confident that the Journal will continue the tradition of quality. Please continue to send your photos, ideas, and articles for publication to editor@sggee.org Earl will continue to serve as Vice President for the balance of his term.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as your President this year. Best wishes to all during this wonderful holiday season.

Carol Kristen-Burns
President

Convention 2006

Planning for the 2006 SGGEE convention is well underway. We have an exciting list of speakers with topics ranging from how to search for your German roots in Eastern Europe to applying modern DNA research to genealogy to travelling in modern day Poland and Volhynia. The convention will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada during the weekend of August 11 – 13 at the Coast Terrace Inn Edmonton South. Registration forms will become available on www.sggee.org in March. A more detailed list of speakers and topics will also become available on the website at that time.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with planning and coordinating the convention. If you can help in any way, please contact the convention committee at convention@sggee.org. We are specifically looking for people to assist during the convention in taking late registrations at the door, making name labels, people who can translate Russian and/or Polish documents to assist in the research room and a map expert to assist in the research room. If you are attending the convention and have an object of historical interest that you think might be of interest to people attending the convention, we would like to set up a small display area with such articles. Following the very interesting articles on windmills in the December Journal, does anyone have a small working model of a windmill like the ones shown in the Journal that they would be interested in bringing to the convention? Perhaps you have a spinning wheel or a tool

that your father, mother or grandparent brought to the new world from Volhynia or Poland that you could bring for all to see.

We aim to make this an enjoyable and informative convention. Bring your old records and make use of the many experts that will be on hand to help you with your research. The SGGEE databases, which are constantly growing and contain information from Polish records not found in any other database, will be accessible to all attendees. Experts will be on hand to help you search the databases. Please make plans now to attend the 2006 SGGEE convention in Edmonton.

Miles Ertman
2006 Convention Chair
convention@sggee.org

Membership News and Tips

By now all members will have had the opportunity to read the December 2005 Journal with its renewal form on the last page. On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I wish to sincerely thank all who have renewed their membership for this 2006 and in several cases, beyond.

All memberships, unless prepaid for additional years, expire at the end of December each year. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to avoid a curtailment of access to the Members-Only pages of the web site. If you need to know what your membership status is, please email membership@sggee.org for that information, (or see the tip below). I will be happy to respond quickly.

Members are encouraged also to use the membership information on the SGGEE web site. On the left side of the **Home Page** (near the bottom) click on **“Membership”** which will take you to the **Membership Information Page**. On this page you will find instructions on how to recover your username and password if you have forgotten them. Speaking of usernames and passwords, PLEASE use exactly the same syntax for both to log on as you did when you registered them originally. Do not substitute capital letters for lower case or vice versa, most of the problems encountered when trying to log on are caused by that kind of substitution

A tip. From the **SGGEE Home Page**, click on **“Members Only Area”** to take you to a page where you will see the heading **“Membership Data and Their Research Interests”**. Immediately below that there is a heading **“Searchable Membership Database”**. If you click on the latter you will find several search blocks. Type in another member’s name for example, or your own, and you will find updated contact information and even the expiry date of yours or anyone else’s membership. The website Membership Database is updated weekly, sometimes more often.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

John Marsch
Membership Committee

From the Research Corner

There have been no significant new developments since our report in December 2005 Journal. This week we received word from the Indexing Co-ordinators in Salt Lake City -

"Unfortunately things are moving a little slower right now. Lots of changes are occurring in the Family History department." So we will have to be patient a little longer to get records on CD's for indexing at home and seeing the final results posted on the Parish Records Index database.

Meanwhile, we still have some rolls of film of Lodz Parish records (received last year) that need to be indexed. If anyone has time to spend at their local Family History Center and create indexes in a spreadsheet program, please let contact us. If you have access to a film reader for home usage, all the better. These films are earmarked for extraction, and can be sent out anywhere.

Rose Ingram
Research Committee
databases@sggee.org

Databases

Gary Warner reports that he is deep into merging the SGGEE001r6 data with the main pedigree database. All pedigree data submitted by members has been included the database currently on the website, with the exception of about half a dozen files that came in after the last posting.