

SGGEE Electronic Newsletter

12 November 2004

SGGEE Executive 2004/5

President: Dick Stein, <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarts" />Calgary, AB

Past President: John Marsch, Swift Current, SK

Vice President: Earl Schultz, Calgary, AB

Treasurer: Ken Schultz, Calgary, AB

Recording and

Corresponding Sec: Ursula Bachman, Sherwood Park, AB

Other Directors: Karl Krueger, Gaithersburg, MD

Carol Burns, San Francisco, CA

Jan Textor, Ballensbaek, Denmark

Miles Ertman, Edmonton, AB

Convention

In August, the SGGEE Board decided to accept an invitation from FEEFHS to hold our 2005 Convention in conjunction with the FEEFHS Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The tentative dates are Friday to Sunday, August 19 to 21. Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm the conference dates at this time as FEEFHS has not yet finalized their agreement with the convention hotel. A further announcement will be sent to members as soon as the dates are confirmed.

This will be our first convention held in the Midwest states and the first opportunity for our many members from this area to attend a convention nearer to their homes. Earl Schultz is our convention committee chair. The committee is already planning the SGGEE activities and we can look forward to many outstanding presentations. And of course we will continue our tradition of having an SGGEE Research Room where we can

all gather to examine the many research materials, to exchange information, and simply to visit.

We should also like to call for presenters for this convention. If you have an area of research or an appropriate topic that would be of interest to the general membership, please contact Earl Schultz at Earl.Schultz@telusplanet.net with your suggested topics or for further information.

-

From the Research Corner

Since the Research report of July 5, 2004 wherein I informed you of the newly acquired records from Lowicz Lutheran Church, I would like to let you know that we are now in possession of all of the Marriage records, and some of the Death records have also been received. Transcriptions of these records are now underway.

At the Annual Meeting in August 2004 I reported that we are experiencing a slow down with our designated Indexing Projects. For about 5 years we have been creating electronic indexes from the handwritten indexes in the microfilmed church books that are in the Family History Library system. After much correspondence with the people at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, we received an email in April 2002 granting approval to index records. In July of 2004 we received a notice from Genealogical Society of Utah in Salt Lake City, (who produce the microfilms) saying

It seems the Poland State Archives. have new personnel and short memories regarding their face to face and telephone agreements. Therefore, we will have to have permission in writing from now on.

SGGEE is now in the process of obtaining permission in writing from the Head of the Polish State Archives. Upon receipt of a letter from Poland we will immediately send it to the GSU people who will give us a formal clearance letter to index microfilms of our choice. Meanwhile the Parish Records Index will remain in the Members Only Section and we will still be adding new data from various parishes as they are received.

I apologize for this lengthy explanation, but thought members should know that SGGEE is trying to stay on the good side of the GSU and the Polish State Archives. These indexes have already helped many of our members discover their ancestors in Parishes where they never would have thought to look. When we receive final clearance we will then again be looking for volunteers who are able to read Polish or Cyrillic records, as we would like to expand the website search results to include parents names in birth and death search results. This will require reading each entry in the microfilmed records for new projects.

In the meantime, we have some Russian handwritten indexes needing to be transferred to a spreadsheet. Contact me at roseingram@shaw.ca if you would like to help.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers who are presently working on various projects and many thanks to those who have completed projects in the past. Your efforts have helped members find more information about their ancestors and find new cousins at SGGEE.

Rose Ingram, SGGEE Research Chair.

Village/Region Committee

SGGEE is calling once again for short stories, informational data, research sources etc. that will help new researchers better understand their ancestral heritage for the areas of Volhynia and Russian Poland. Virginia Less is willing to correlate whatever you send her for future publication, possibly through the Journal, perhaps a special booklet and hopefully the creation of a link on the SGGEE website for village information. The stories could include whatever parents/grandparents or research has provided you of your ancestor's daily life while living "over there". Include any stories you have of their deportation or exile lives, their eventual immigration experience and settlement in another country. Village information could be where it is located, when it was settled, who resided in the community (if known surnames), current village name if it still exists, anything else that would be helpful to others. Please share what you have.

Please contact Virginia Less at GVLESS@aol.com or by postal mail: 503 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 601378-5016.

Membership Renewal Reminder

2004 Memberships expire on December 31. The Board of Directors express their sincere appreciation to those who have already renewed their 2005 renewal fee, also to those who have prepaid their memberships through 2006. If you are unsure of the status of your membership payments please contact membership@sggee.org.

Renewal fees are \$40 (Cdn) for residents of Canada and \$30 (US) for those living elsewhere. A renewal form can be downloaded from the SGGEE web site at www.sggee.org. However, an unaccompanied check/cheque, clearly marked as a renewal payment is completely satisfactory. Please ensure email and postal address changes are forwarded also.

All membership renewals can be sent to the SGGEE's postal address:

SGGEE, Box 905 Stn M, Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2J6

Problems in gedcoms submitted to SGGEE

When SGGEE receives a gedcom file from a member, it is inserted into the main Pedigree database, and then merged with other data in the database. Extra work is caused when any of the names in the file submitted are stated as "unknown, unknown" or "unknown, spouse" or even "unknown". The problem is that each of these names is considered by the database to be unique, and when a merge is started, each one comes up as a possible match that needs to be reviewed manually one name at a time. It is important to understand that entering data for an unknown spouse is NOT necessary when adding children, unless there is some bit of data such as birthdate or place of birth for that unknown spouse. Please do not add names such as unknown in your submittals. For information about submission of gedcoms, or if you have any inquiry about our databases, please contact databases@sggee.org