

2010 SGGEE Convention Report

The 12th annual SGGEE convention was held on August 13, 14 & 15 at the Delta South Edmonton Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta. The theme of the conference was “Researching our German Heritage in Eastern Europe”.

Approximately 75 people attended the conference this year. According to the completed exit surveys, about 90% of the participants were from Canada, had attended 3 previous SGGEE conventions and been members of SGGEE for about 5-1/2 years. The average involvement with genealogy was 10-15 years and varied from those just starting out to more than 40 years.

There were 11 workshops conducted over the 2-1/2 days in Edmonton plus a Saturday night banquet with Pastor Edward Link serving as the banquet speaker.

The workshops were as follows:

- Genealogy 101: Walter Meyer, President of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogy Society and volunteers at a Edmonton Family History Center
- Interviewing and writing family stories: Kathleen Kufeldt
- A Guide to Napoleonic documents & Cyrillic records: Sigrid Pohl-Perry
- Spitz-names in Southeast Edmonton: Ron Neuman
- Exploring Volhynian villages: Gil Stelter
- Dangerous Choices: leaving or staying in Volhynia: Sally Stelter
- SGGEE village location guidelines: Frank Stewner & Gary Warner
- Collectivization: The art of staying one step ahead: Ray Bloch
- Panel discussion on current SGGEE resources and research projects: Rose Ingram, Gary Warner, Dick Stein, Ted Belke, Howard Krushel and a report on the Zhitomir region repression files prepared by Don Miller (read by Rose Ingram).
- “Circle the Ferns”: The origin and demise of German settlements at Paproc Duza: Adolf Buse
- It takes a Village: Edie Adam

The Research room once again proved to be a very popular destination among attendees. There were many positive comments stressing the importance of meeting other SGGEE members and appreciation expressed for the guidance and support received from the more experienced members and the workshop presenters.

Research room highlights included:

- Library books and other materials transported by Howard Krushel
- Access to SGGEE’s Master Pedigree Database (MDB), the Parish Records Index (PRI), Maps and other on-line information contained on the SGGEE website.
- Consultation provided by a host of knowledgeable SGGEE volunteers
- Lublin Indexing project data

- Replicated buildings of Bruderheim, Alberta by Alfred Neuman
- Pomeranian and Kashubian display information provided by Peter Lipinski
- Family Tree display back to Wuerttemberg in early 1700s, by Rachael Patterson
- Gazetteer and village location assistance by Frank Stewner

Many thanks are in order for all those who assisted in making this a successful convention by volunteering to be guest speakers, providing assistance in the Research room, and working diligently “behind the scenes” as unsung heroes.

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Friday August 13th, it was announced that Winnipeg, Manitoba will be the site for the 2011 SGGEE convention. The dates and venue are yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Convention Committee