

2018 Convention Report

The SGGEE Convention and Annual General Meeting were held at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre in Calgary, Alberta Canada with the convention theme "Hands on Genealogy". This year marked the 20 year anniversary of SGGEE that was formally organized in Calgary in 1998. To celebrate this milestone, a special program guide emphasizing the early history and founders of SGGEE was developed by Edie Adam. Coffee and cake were provided during the annual general meeting and founding member Dave Obee was recruited to provide the banquet speech. Our speakers and all members who volunteered to serve on the Convention committee or provide assistance in various ways during the convention deserve special recognition for making our 20th Anniversary a memorable experience for all those in attendance.

Looking back over the past 20 years SGGEE has published 80+ issues of the Journal, and held conventions in Calgary, Edmonton, Gatineau, Kelowna, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Regina, Seattle, St. Paul, Tacoma and Winnipeg. During these conventions, over 200 presentations have been given along with countless hours of "hands-on-guidance" provided by our experienced members in the research room. The on-line SGGEE Ger-Poland-Volhynia blog and most recently the addition of *Facebook* have enhanced our research skills, provided genealogical knowledge and contributed toward successfully tracing many of our families. It goes without saying that the planning and organizational structure created by our founding members was spot on making SGGEE one of the most successful German genealogical Societies.

Plans are currently underway for the 2019 convention that will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. If you have suggestions or would like to serve on the Convention committee, feel free to contact the SGGEE Convention committee at: **convention-sggee@googlegroups.com**.

The following is a listing of the workshops presented:

- First Steps on the Ancestral Trail--Brenda Smith
 - Finding your German Ancestors in Canada--Carmen Merrills & Jamie Brown
 - Black Sea Migrations from Poland and Volhynia--Carolyn Schott
 - Getting the Most from Autosomal DNA--Emily Aulicino
 - Moving to a new Life: Migration Beyond Ship Lists--Brenda Smith
 - Reading Russian and Polish Records--Sigrid Pohl-Perry
 - Stalin's Arrest Records--Dave Obee
 - Conducting Genealogical Research in Congress Poland and East Prussia--Cynthia Spurgat Jacobson
 - Preparing your Data for SGGEE submittal--Gary Warner
 - Finding your Lost Cousins with Autosomal DNA--Emily Aulicino
 - Family Search on-line EWZ Records--Karl Krueger
 - Navigating on-line Polish Records--Sigrid Pohl-Perry
- Banquet Speaker: Dave Obee

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Tucholke, SGGEE Convention chair