

## 2009 Convention Report

The 11<sup>th</sup> SGGEE convention and annual meeting was held on July 24 and 25 at the Radisson North Shore located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The convention was jointly sponsored with the Federation of East European Family History Societies {FEEFHS} and was coordinated by Dave Obee who has been a long standing member of both organizations. Approximately 133 people attended the conference along with 13 guest speakers.

The conference dates were specifically selected to provide an opportunity for members to also attend the Milwaukee German Fest that ran from July 23 through July 26. This is the largest German ethnic festival in North America. There are continuous events and activities scheduled with the average 4-day attendance reaching over 125,000 people.

This year, a two-track approach was utilized in the selection and scheduling of the conference presentations. This provided attendees with the choice of attending either a beginning or an advanced level genealogy workshop that were held concurrently during the two day conference.

The following is a list of the topics and presenters:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| • Genealogy 101   | Dave Obee              |
| • How to Decipher Cyrillic lettering                    | Sigrid Pohl-Perry      |
| • Researching the Habsburg Empire I & II                | Irmgard Hein Ellingson |
| • A quick guide to using SGGEE's resources              | Gary Warner            |
| • Strategies for locating ancestral villages            | Ceil Wendt Jensen      |
| • The road to Niemieckie                                | Jerry Frank            |
| • Immigration agents at work                            | Ceil Wendt Jensen      |
| • Identifying and using records                         | Larry Jensen           |
| • Genealogical use of DNA                               | Thomas Krahn           |
| • Searching compiled genealogies to prevent duplication | Larry Jensen           |
| • Ancestry.com: Germanic heritage resources             | Joe Everett            |
| • Pommern Immigration to Wisconsin & Iowa               | Irmgard Hein Ellingson |
| • Using DNA as an anthropological tool                  | Thomas Krahn           |
| • Historical and cultural backgrounds in research       | Larry Jensen           |
| • Writing family history                                | Cindy Jacobson         |
| • Ancestry.com: Tracing resources Eastern Europe        | Joe Everett            |
| • Bug Hollender in Siberia                              | Jerry Frank            |
| • Migration of Germans into Poland and Volhynia         | Bill Remus             |
| • Seeking Wilhelm Boeing                                | Ceil Wendt Jensen      |
| • Using DNA in your research                            | Bill Remus             |
| • Volhynian migration into Wisconsin & the Midwest      | Karla Walters          |
| • Jewish Research                                       | Thom Edlund            |

## **Friday Evening Banquet**

Family Search filming in Eastern Europe

Thom Edlund

The SGGEE resource room was made available thanks to Howard Krushel who transported computers and library materials from Calgary to Milwaukee. Once again, this area became very popular among conference attendees as numerous SGGEE members and conference speakers made themselves available throughout the conference offering technical assistance and responses to a variety of research questions.

The SGGEE annual meeting was held on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> during the final presentation time slot. It was announced that Edmonton, Alberta would be the site for the 2010 SGGEE convention. The newly elected board members were Ken Krell, and Rose Ingram with Ray Bloch being re-elected after agreeing to serve a second term.

Bill Tucholke

Convention Committee Board Rep.