

2011 SGGEE Final Convention Report

The Victoria Inn and Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba was the site chosen for the 2011 convention with over 80 in attendance. Our theme "From Whence We Came" was aptly chosen as many of our German ancestors initially arrived in Winnipeg before permanently settling in the prairie provinces of Western Canada or the United States.

Once again, the willingness of our SGGEE members to volunteer their time, talents and expertise created a supportive family-like atmosphere that was enjoyable and provided a productive learning experience for the participants. The Resource room as in past years was a popular destination for most participants where a great deal of interaction and sharing took place.

A total of 12 workshops were held over the 2-1/2 days in Winnipeg along with the Annual General meeting and a Saturday night banquet featuring Felix Kuehn as the guest speaker. Felix wore 19th century attire and artfully explained how the territory of western Canada was in question until England agreed to pay restitution to the United States for supporting the Confederacy during the Civil War.

President Ray Bloch provided the opening address and served as MC throughout the conference. The following workshops were provided:

Genealogy for Beginners: Thelma Findlay

How to conduct Interviews and Write Stories: Kathleen Kufeldt

The History and Migration of Germans to Poland and Volhynia: Bill Remus

Translating Polish Documents: Jerry Frank

Introduction to the use of EWZ Records: Edie Adam

Translating Russian Cyrillic Records I & II: Sigrid Pohl Perry

Letters from the Attic--Voices from war torn Europe: Ron Neumann

Tzar Nicholas and Six Degrees of Separation: Felix Kuehn

How to use DNA in your Genealogical Research: Bill Remus

German Cloth Making Industry around Lodz: Jerry Frank

A Child's View of Collectivization: Gabrielle Goldstone

*Banquet Speech: International Boundary: Felix Kuehn

Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors: Ken Kufeldt was elected to fill a 1-year vacancy as Treasurer. Sigrid Pohl Perry was newly elected to serve a 2-year term along with Ken Krell and Rose Ingram who were re-elected. Ray Bloch was commended for serving as president during the past two years.

Regina, Saskatchewan has tentatively been selected as the 2012 convention site dependent on the logistics being successfully worked out.

Bill Tucholke,
SGGEE Convention Chair