

## 2012 SGGEE Annual Convention Report

This year the annual SGGEE convention was held at the Travelodge Hotel & Convention Centre on August 10, 11 and 12 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. These dates were chosen to correspond with the Regina Folk Festival being held at Victoria Park.

The theme of the conference was “SGGEE: The Key to Your Family Tree”. Outgoing president Bill Tucholke provided the Friday welcoming speech while John Marsch served as MC throughout the conference. By popular demand, Felix Kuehn was selected as the banquet speaker and again provided a humorous and entertaining presentation while those in attendance dined on an excellent buffet style meal.

The exit survey comments from last year in Winnipeg were extremely helpful in selecting our workshop topics, recruiting speakers and continuing to provide a “research room”. This was the first time that a web- based workshop approach was used and worked out exceptionally well. Our committee will give strong consideration to using this approach in the future as it provides maximum flexibility in speaker recruitment at minimal cost.

The number of those attending this year was somewhat disappointing (50 conference and 70 banquet) and demonstrates the need to place more emphasis on publicizing our conventions. We are hopeful that as in the past, our members will step forward and volunteer to assist in this important task.

Along with the Annual General meeting, 11 workshops were provided during the 2-1/2 days. They are as follows:

- Genealogy Part I: Chris Krismer
- Genealogy Part II: Chris Krismer
- The ABC's of EWZ: Edie Adam
- Border Changes: Edie Adams
- Organizing Planning & Sharing: Geoff Rasmussen
- Checklist to Using your Legacy Genealogy Program: Geoff Rasmussen
- SGGEE Databases: Gary Warner
- Immigration to Canada: Hannelies Kuehnle
- Preachers in Siberian Exile: Dick Benert
- Tracking the Tribe: Sigrid Pohl-Perry
- Lace Brocade and Broadcloth: Felix Kuehn

The Research room was open from Thursday evening through Sunday and again proved to be a very popular destination among attendees. There were many positive comments expressing appreciation for the guidance and support received from our speakers and experienced member-mentors along with the opportunity to meet other SGGEE members. It was suggested that a master list of the families being researched by those in attendance be included as a handout and continue to include these names on the individual name tags.

Many thanks are in order for those who volunteered their time and talents to locate the convention venue, provide publicity, serve as or recruit workshop presenters, provide research assistance and complete the many behind the scenes tasks that made this convention a successful one.

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Friday August 10, 2012, the following board members were elected: Ray Bloch, Columbus, Ohio; Ken Kufeldt, Calgary, Alberta and Bill O'Shea, Regina, Saskatchewan.

It was announced that the Seattle/Tacoma, Washington area will be the site for the 2013 SGGEE convention. The dates and venue are yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Tucholke,  
Convention Committee Chair