

2015 SGGEE Convention Report

The 17th annual SGGEE convention was held at the Ramada Plaza du Casino Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec with the theme "*Researching Our German Roots in Poland and the Russian Empire*". The location in Quebec was chosen to encourage our members living in eastern Canada and the U.S. to attend our convention without encountering an excessive amount of travel. This goal was successfully met as more than half the exit surveys indicated that this was the member's first SGGEE convention while four attendees joined SGGEE as new members.

Special thanks go out to Renate Dilk-Pilon and Helen Gillespie who selected and made numerous hotel arrangements, and the members of the Convention Committee who assisted in the convention planning process and during the convention. The Publicity committee was extremely active this year as the SGGEE brochure was updated, an SGGEE *Facebook* web page created and convention flyers sent to numerous churches, genealogical organizations and German groups throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Once again member interaction and the research assistance provided by Rose Ingram, Gary Warner, Sigrid Pohl-Perry, Karl Krueger and our other knowledgeable members was greatly appreciated and the favorite part of the convention cited by many members.

The following is a listing of the workshops presented:

- Genealogy 101 and Library Archives Canada Resources --Nicole Waiter
 - On-Line Databases on SGGEE website --Gary Warner
 - An Anaconda in Volhynia? Germans in South America video --Produced by GRHS
 - Remembering the Deportation of 1915--Dick Benert
 - Introduction to Family Search Resources--Shirley-Ann Pyefinch
 - A Place by any other name won't Merge--Gary Warner & Sigrid Pohl-Perry
 - Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA to identify Distant Cousins--Willi Weisner
 - German Oral History Project--Dr. Mathias Schulze, University of Waterloo
 - Flight to a New Heimat: Eastern European Germans 1940-1955--Sigrid Pohl-Perry
 - EWZ Records: What is it?---Karl Krueger
 - Hands On Research help: SGGEE databases, etc.--Open forum
- Saturday banquet speech: From Berlin to Kitchner in 215 years--Dr. Mathias Schulze

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Tucholke, Convention chair