

John Althouse

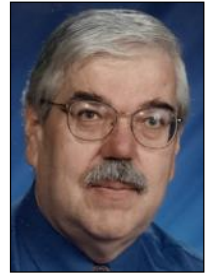
John Althouse was born in Canora, Saskatchewan, in 1946 and grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, where he lives. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta and worked as a teacher in the Edmonton Catholic School District for nearly 35 years.

John has always had a strong interest in heritage and history. He has written and edited genealogical articles and is a past President of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

He is a member of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

His personal research includes German ancestors from Germany and Volga, Russia.

John has conducted genealogical presentations and workshops and been featured on CBC Radio answering genealogical queries.



Alex Brzhezytskiy

Alex Brzhezytskiy is a humanitarian, genealogist, researcher and tour escort. He is the owner and manager of the well-known Volhynian Village Adventure Tours pioneered by Don Miller.

He is also the founder of Green Tours, which specializes in hiking and mountain climbing expeditions, and has been leading customized tours of Volhynia for a number of years.

He has a major in business management and speaks five languages, including English, Polish, German, Russian and Ukrainian. Alex is married and has two children.

Alex has done extensive research in the State Archives of Ukraine., including SGGEE's Volhynian Indexing Project. His experience with the archives and the indexing project is the subject of his presentation.

Alex also will be speaking about the Volhynian Village tours and assisting with translation for our other speaker from Ukraine.



Mykhailo Kostiuk

Professor Mykhailo Kostiuk was born and educated in the village of Oshchiv in the Volyn region of Ukraine. He later studied history and education at university before receiving his doctorate in history with a thesis about the German colonization in Volyn from 1860 to the 20th century.

Mykhailo was professor of history at the Lutsk Pedagogical College from 1984-2000. Since 2000, he has been associate professor of Engineering Education, Psychology and Ukrainian Language at Lutsk National Technical University.

He is a member of the International Association of Russian history and culture of Germans and has been a fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service and the German Historical Institute in Moscow.

He has been a participant in international scientific conferences and projects in Ukraine, Germany, Poland and Russia, and is the author of more than 70 scientific articles on the history of Volyn Germans.



Uwe Krickhahn

Uwe Krickhahn was born in Hamburg, Germany, where he learned the trade of metal fitter and locksmith.

He emigrated to Canada in 1959 and quickly began working in what became his life-long career in the automotive industry as a mechanic, repair shop owner and then dealership selling Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen, Audi and Hyundai.

Uwe retired in 1999 and went on to serve on various community boards. He joined the Medicine Hat Genealogical Society in 2001, serving as president for three years, and developing obituary software used by the society.

He started to develop kartenmeister.com in 1995 and made it available to the public on March 31, 2001. In the process, Uwe acquired a sizeable collection of German maps and gained familiarity with Old German script, Polish and Russian.

Kartenmeister is used extensively by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.



Karl Krueger

Karl is the youngest sibling and only US-born member of his family. His other siblings were born either near Lublin, Poland, Warthegau, or in West Germany within 20-30 kilometers of the East German border.

Prior to this all, his ancestors lived in Russian Poland since the very early 1800s and by 1870 they all had settled near Lublin. Although the action of EWZ had provided his family with much of this genealogical data giving Karl a great head start, it was his desire to dig deeper that led him to SGGEE. His research brought him in contact with previously unknown 3rd, 4th, and 5th cousins, the latter of which includes a close friend of his in Maryland since 1981, only discovering this surprising relationship about eight years ago.

Since becoming a member of SGGEE in 2003 Karl has led an EWZ extraction project for Germans in the Lublin area, which is deposited in the MPD, headed the indexing of the Lublin Digital Archive, and is the current SGGEE webmaster.

Karl and his wife Brenda have two sons but are now empty nesters living in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He works at the National Cancer Institute administrating programs attempting to achieve early detection of cancer.



Earl Schultz

Earl Schultz has been a member of SGGEE since its inception and an avid genealogist for over 50 years ... and he is only 68.

A first-generation Canadian, his research has been focused primarily on the records, customs and people living in the communities around Rypin, Poland, about 75 miles NW of Warsaw. He has spent many years extracting the Polish records of the Michalki Evangelical Parish and is currently completing the transfer of those records to Legacy.

He has already started moving the records from Lipno and Sierpc to Legacy and linking all the families of these three Lutheran parishes. As the work progresses the data are being transferred to SGGEE's Master Pedigree Database.



Earl has been doing DNA research for several years and assists others with their DNA research. He is a Project Administrator for the Leichnitz Surname Project for FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) – www.ftdna.com/groups/Leichnitz.

Earl has been actively encouraging SGGEE members to take DNA tests to add to our knowledge of Eastern European Germans and to start linking our members into families with common ancestors.

Brenda L. Smith

Brenda L. Smith is a writer and researcher in Maple Ridge, where she serves as chair of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission, and is a founding member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group.

For 25 years, she has developed and presented programs to teach research, organizational development, public speaking and theater skills.

As a member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group, she writes for the Maple Ridge Historical Society Family History Newsletter and leads the Hammond Family History Project.

Brenda presents research methodology programs for libraries, museums and archives, family history societies and other interested groups.

One of her more recent presentations was in July 2015 at the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia convention in Billings, Montana.

She was the recipient in 2006 of the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission Sheila Nickols Heritage Achievement Award for Community History and Heritage Teaching.

Among other programs Brenda has developed and presented was “Putting Granny in Context: Using Family History Research Techniques to Discover Women in History” for the Canadian Committee on Women’s History Conference. And for the Heritage Commission, she organized a History Club for Kids at Maple Ridge Public Library.

