

2019 Final Convention Report

The 21st SGGEE Annual General Meeting and Convention was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on August 16-18, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg Airport West. “Grow Your Family Tree” was the convention theme. This is the first year an on-line registration process was initiated and the second time our convention has been held in Winnipeg.

Historically, Winnipeg was an important destination for many of our immigrant German ancestors who settled in Canada, with many receiving critical support and assistance from the Mennonite church in Winnipeg. Some chose to remain in Winnipeg while others eventually traveled west to the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta or ventured further west to British Columbia.

Once again, thanks go out to all our convention committee members who have diligently worked throughout the year in planning and organizing our convention. Special recognition is given to Virginia Braun for locating this excellent venue and recruiting many of our speakers; to Edie Adam who designed our convention logo and created our program guide and of course the ever reliable Rose Ingram who was always available to insure that attendee and speaker questions were answered and their needs met.

This year along with our traditional workshops, and the “hands-on-guidance” provided in the Research room by our experienced members, Sigrid Pohl-Perry conducted two special small group sessions on translating Polish and Russian Cyrillic family records brought in by the members who pre-registered.

The following is a list of the workshops presented:

- The History and Ancestry of the Canadian Prairie Mennonites: **Glenn H. Penner**
- Manitoba Genealogical Society: Name Index and Holdings: **Gordon McBean**
- My Technology Toolkit: **Gordon McBean**
- The Old Country Meets the Internet: **Denise Kolesar**
- Navigating online Polish Databases: **Sigrid Pohl-Perry**
- A Journey to Ancestral Lands: **Lisa Haji Abbasi**
- Unzipping the Mysteries of your Genes (Part 1): **Earl Schultz**
- Unzipping the Mysteries of your Genes (Part 2): **Earl Schultz**
- Family Secret Brought to Light: **Oriole A. Veldhuis**
- Preparing Data for SGGEE Submission (Part 1): **Gary E. Warner**
- Preparing Data for SGGEE Submission (Part 2): **Gary E. Warner**
- Banquet Speech “*To Live in Remembrance*”: **Felix Kuehn**

Plans are currently underway for the 2020 convention in Portland, Oregon. We encourage our members to become more involved in the convention planning process and are always looking for members to serve on our committee.

Interested members should contact the Convention committee at: **convention-sggree@google.com**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Tucholke, SGGEE Convention Chair