

Discovering Our Links to Europe

An International Genealogical Conference

Regina, SK Canada

July 18-21, 2002

The combined convention under the able chairmanship of Ms Laura M. Hanowski, of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, was by any measure a giant success.

The five Societies were: **SGS** (Saskatchewan Genealogical Society,) **FEEFHS** (Federation of East European Family History Societies,) **BSA** (The Bukovina Society of the Americas,) **SGGEE** (Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe,)- "*A Poland and Volhynia Genealogy Group*" **EEGS** (East European Genealogical Society.)

The expected attendance of 175 grew as approximately 325 registered. Yes, some of the rooms were a little small. However, the cooperative spirit of those attending made do with what was available. The SGGEE attendance was approximately 70 with 75% Canadian, 25% US.

Each day was divided into three morning and three afternoon sessions. Each hour had from one to six presentations. The single presentations were panels and the ballroom was used to accommodate the attendees. There was a total of 63 presentations during the three days.

The Friday evening banquet was hosted by "The Bukovina Society of the Americas," MC'd by the stalwart President of that Society Irmgard Hein Ellingson. The Guest Speaker was Dr. Aryton G. Celestino who represents the "German Bukovina Families of Rio Negro and Mafra, Brazil." These two societies from the US and Brazil are sister organizations and hope to continue their excellent rapport so the research of Bukovinians will continue to expand. Dr Celestino, himself a Bukovinian, was a delightful, charismatic speaker who described the ongoing work in his homeland. He stated many times that he hoped for the expansion of activities with their sister organization in the US. Most of us at the banquet were not Bukovinians; however, we left feeling a proud kindred spirit, for our friends researching Bukovina. Bukovina was that small country proudly nestled in between Romania and Galicia at the northern tip of Bessarabia.

The Saturday evening banquet featured speaker Kahlile Mehr, collection specialist and cataloguer at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. He, too, was an excellent speaker, presenting with a sense of humor woven into his message. He described how records are selected for microfilming in foreign countries and the challenges of necessary patience, once taking two decades to get permission to film. He told fascinating stories regarding the process of storing master films in the mountain near Salt Lake City. He described the frustration of not having enough volunteers to catalog films. I'm sure I was not alone in wishing I could take some time and go to Salt Lake City to help for awhile.

The following presentations were of particular interest to the members of SGGEE.

Using Maps and Atlases in your Research by Dave Obee He was the kick-off presenter after welcoming remarks on Friday morning. His popular presentation was in the Ballroom with all Convention attendees present.

How the SGGEE Pedigree Database Was Conceived and Created:

by Gary Warner There was standing room only in both of his presentations. In his first presentation he described the SGGEE Pedigree database and how it is maintained. His second presentation was on how to get the most out of the SGGEE

WebSite. Many veteran researchers in the audience listened intensely as he went through the web site, shown on a big screen. The enormous amount of easily available information was of great interest to everyone.

Drang Nach Osten Part 1: German Migration to Hungary, Galicia, Bessarabia, Black Sea and Volga Areas

Drang Nach Osten Part 2: German migration to Russian Poland and Volhynia
by Jerry Frank

The attraction of the movement to the various eastern destinations was described in detail. Of particular interest to our group, was the movement into Volhynia of which 75% came from Congress Poland. This first movement came after the Polish insurrection of 1831, the second after the rebellion in 1863. Jerry's presentation helped us understand why our ancestors moved east.

Canadian Immigration Records by Pat Ryan

Searching for Grandma by Shirley Bucca

East And West Prussian Prussian Genealogical Records of Value for Mennonites, Most Germans from Volhynia, Central Poland and the Maiupol Colonies and Some Bessarabia and Certain Other Black Sea Settlements.
by Edward R. Brandt

Organizing Your Research Records/Mail/Photographs With or Without a Computer
by Thelma F. Findlay

Bibliographers and Catalogues: Routes to Discovering Genealogical Resources
by Kenneth G. Aitken

German From Russia by Thomas K. Edlund, Now a professor with Brigham Young University. Prior to his present employment he was with the Family History Center. He has been very involved with the FEEFHS Journal and is well known and appreciated throughout the research world.

History of Nazi Resettlement Records and EWZ Documents
by Richard Benert

Mr Benert is a member of the SGEE board and holds the position of Vice President. He is a retired Professor and has an interest in the voluminous EWZ documents. His well attended presentation will most likely result in many attendees researching this new resource previously unknown to them.

Accessing Galician Genealogical Records in Archives and Other Locations in Poland and Ukraine
by Brian J Lenius

Mr Lenius is the founding member of the East European Genealogical Society. In his quest he has taken several trips to the region of his passion. He has visited many archives and has written extensively about them.

Immigration, Settlement and Family History Sources at the Saskatchewan Archives
by Chris Gebhard

Presentation on Volhynia With Emphasis on EWZ Records
by Irmgard Hein Ellingson & Dave Obee

Post Second World War Immigration to Canada by Dave Obee

Ukraine and Polish Acquisitions in Family History Library

by Kahlile B. Mehr

German Baptists

by Van Massier

How to Read the Vital Records in Polish (Only knowing English!)

by Albert M Muth

Mr Muth, a member of SGGEE, has extracted and translated tens of thousands of German records in Poland. This contribution to our society is greatly appreciated by anyone that searches our data base.

German Emigration Resources

by Marion Wolfert

Finding Where Grandma Eloped; Searches in the Vital Records of the Early 19th Century Russia Poland

by Albert M Muth

Building a Family Tree Using Canadian and East European Records

By Thelma F Findlay

Two panels were held in the ballroom:

1. How to Prepare Before Visiting A Record Center. Tips to Make the Most Effective Use of Your Time
Moderated by Irmgard Hein Ellinson

2. Do I Hire a Professional Researcher, Visit an Overseas Archive Myself, Go with a Tour Group or Do All of the Above?
Moderated by Thomas K Edlund

SGGEE held their Annual General Meeting Saturday afternoon as did the other Societies. After Committee Reports and routine business matters were taken care of, the election of directors took place. After the adjournment of the Annual Meeting, the new board met to organize. At that meeting the following people were elected to the various offices. John E. Marsch - President, Richard Benert - Vice President, Irwin Feldcher – Treasurer, Rose Ingram - Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Other Directors: Victor Gess, Howard Krushel, Virginia Less, Jack Milner. The Directors responsible for a Committee are Victor Gess – Publicity, Howard Krushel – Library, Virginia Less – Village and Regional Coordinator, Jack Milner – Convention and Website, John Marsch – Membership, Richard Benert – Journal, Irwin Feldcher – Finance, and Rose Ingram – Research.

Every registrant received a comprehensive Syllabus. It has most of the information presented by each speaker. The Syllabus will be a useful reference for each recipient and lets one catch up on any missed presentations.

The combined Societies Convention ran very smoothly and the organizers deserve special thanks for a job well done. The Convention Committee for SGGEE was Karl Lenz, John E.Marsch and Lawrence Penno. Our thanks to them for all the work they did. Plans are now underway for the 2003 Convention which will be in Edmonton. We will have our much appreciated research room and all the rest that goes with our conventions.

by Victor Gess

