

**PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS FOR EEGS AND FEEFHS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - AUGUST 4 to 6, 2006 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

**PRESENTATIONS BY ETHNIC /
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS**

Identify an ethnic or geographic focus of interest and then view the presentation number for each topic and description. (An attempt has been made to list the presentation numbers in an order best suited to each ethnic/geographic focus.)

Poland - 03, 22, 23, 01, 14, 05, 02, 13, 07, 04, 26, 27, 25, 15, 06, 21

Ukraine - 01, 14, 16, 19, 17, 18, 08, 13, 20, 02, 04, 07, 26, 27, 25, 15, 10, 06, 21

Galicia - 01, 14, 13, 03, 22, 23, 02, 07, 04, 26, 27, 15, 25, 06, 21

Bukovina - 16, 14, 02, 04, 07, 26, 27, 15, 25, 06, 21

Volhynia - 19, 20, 08, 18, 17, 04, 07, 26, 27, 15, 25, 02, 06, 21, 09, 10, 22, 23

German - 06, 09, 21, 20, 13, 10, 19, 05, 24, 08, 14, 16, 22, 23, 18, 17, 26, 27, 15, 25, 04, 07, 01

Polish - 03, 02, 23, 01, 22, 14, 05, 16, 07, 26, 27, 25, 15, 08, 17, 18, 04, 19

Ukrainian - 01, 14, 16, 04, 22, 23, 18, 17, 08, 19, 26, 27, 15, 25, 07, 29

Mennonite - 32, 33, 09, 05, 06, 10, 21, 08, 18, 17, 04, 22, 23, 26, 27, 15, 25

Czech-Slovak - 24, 28, 14, 07, 26, 27, 25, 15

Austrian Empire - 14, 07, 01, 24, 28, 16, 13, 22, 23, 03, 04, 06, 21, 02, 26, 27, 25, 15

Russian Empire - 18, 17, 08, 04, 19, 23, 10, 20, 06, 21, 02, 26, 27, 15, 25, 07

German Empire - 09, 05, 27, 06, 21, 07, 03, 22, 26, 25, 15, 23, 13, 20, 10

General - 31, 11, 12, 30, 34, 26, 27, 25, 15, 07

As new information becomes available it is updated on our website at: www.eegsociety.org

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

1 - Vital Records of Galicia / Halychyna (Poland / Ukraine) (Matthew Bielawa)

This presentation will introduce vital records of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia, also known in Ukrainian as Halychyna. Topics include finding the vital records using North American, Polish and Ukrainian sources as well as reading the records through examples and learning common terminology and translation hints. In addition, you will learn how to cite your sources and maintain the information in your genealogical software.

2 - One Way Ticket: Polish Repatriation Records From the Post WWII Period (Matthew Bielawa)

The resettlement of ethnic Poles originating in eastern Poland at the end of World War II greatly affected family history and genealogical research. This presentation will explain the historic background, discuss techniques to find original pre-war and post-war resettled locations, as well as introduce the massive collection of documents in Poland's State Office of Repatriation.

3 - Researching Polish Roots Across Poland and Its Three Partitions (Matthew Bielawa)

From the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th centuries, Poland included three empires: Austria, Prussia and Russia. Each involves distinctive genealogical research. This lecture presents the history and geography of Poland in relation to the Partitions, and explains each Partition's own unique challenges, covering gazetteers, vital record keeping procedures, and languages of the records. The changing map of Poland will be illustrated to help the genealogist gain better understanding of one's ancestral region.

4 - Hands-on Approach to Learning the Cyrillic Alphabets (Matthew Bielawa)

In order to facilitate learning how to read the Cyrillic letters, it helps to learn how to write them first! This workshop will introduce the most popular Cyrillic alphabets, as well as present tricks to learning the letters and point out common pitfalls for English speakers. Bring along a pen and lots of paper – you'll see how easy the Cyrillic alphabets are with just a little practice!

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5 - Genealogical Records in the Prussian East (Edward R. Brandt)

The same records existed for each eastern Prussian province including East and West Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, Silesia, and East Brandenburg but they became part of Prussia at different times. Records covered in the presentation for areas east of the Oder-Neisse are in Berlin, Leipzig or Poland. Important ones include vital registers, land and tax records, court records, published lineages, card and data collections, and records of refugees, expellees and re-settlers from the East.

6 - German Migration to Linguistic Enclaves in the East (Edward R. Brandt)

One migration path consisted of movement to central Poland, Volhynia and certain south Russia (incl. Black Sea) settlements and a second path consisted of movement to Galicia, the Bukovina, the Banat and the Batschka. Origins of these two groups of settlers are quite different. Migration to Bessarabia and Mennonite areas (Prussia, south Russia) can also be included depending upon the interests of audience members. Time will be left for questions about these diverse areas.

7 - Reading Vital Records and Other Local History Documents in Latin (Thomas K. Edlund)

A facility with reading Latin is an immensely valuable skill for any genealogist researching in European records. This workshop summarizes the challenges Latin records present to family historians, and discusses procedures and resources for interpreting Latin documents from the 16th to 20th centuries.

8 - The 1897 Census of Imperial Russia (Thomas K. Edlund)

The 1897 census was the first and last attempt to enumerate the entire Imperial Russian population. The census documented vital and demographic data of approximately 126,000,000 individuals. This workshop summarizes the history of enumeration in Russia (tribute lists, land and household tax lists, revision lists, family lists), and focuses especially on interpreting 1897 census returns for genealogical information.

9 - Die Ahnenstammkartei des Deutschen Volkes (Central Index of the German People) (Thomas K. Edlund)

Active from 1921-1994, the primary goal of ASTAKA, or *Die Ahnenstammkartei des deutschen Volkes*, was to

assist genealogists in circulating and coordinating research. The files of this service, now closed to submissions, document the names, vital data and pedigrees of 2,700,000 individuals. This workshop focuses on how to access the information contained in this massive resource documenting central European ancestry.

10 - Researching the Germans from Russia (Thomas K. Edlund)

Germans have had a long association with the Russian Empire, the earliest dating to the beginning of the 16th century. This workshop studies the records and resources documenting the Black Sea and Volga German populations which immigrated to Russia from 1764 to 1819, and whose descendants now live in North and South America.

11 - Let's Get Organized (Thelma Findlay)

You have all of your photos and family information gathered and piled up, but are unsure how to keep track of it all! Join this session to discover ways of organizing your information and being able to find what you are looking for with ease: family history sheets, sources, family records, photographs and negatives, old letters, and so much more gathered together to form the basis of your unique research.

12 - Genealogy using the Internet (Denise Kolesar)

Are you timid about using the internet. Not sure if there is any information out there for you? Have you tried to look something up, but have gotten nowhere? This session will show you how to go about searching for information on the internet, whether it be looking for a distant relative, finding a program to publish your family tree or locating a translation website. Tips, terminology and software will also be discussed.

13 - A Primer for *Galiziendeutschen* (Germans from Galicia) Research (Brian J. Lenius)

Colonization of Galicia by Germans from other parts of Europe began in the 1780's. Lutheran/Reformed and Roman Catholic research will be covered with special emphasis on research problems unique to German Catholics and colonies in East Galicia. Out-migration to Vienna, U.S.A., Canada, and other countries began late in 1800's. The 150 year history of the colonies ended with the final exodus of most German Colonists from today's Ukraine during World War Two.

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14 - Galician Examples of Empire-wide Austrian Records (Brian J. Lenius)

Many types of records are similar regardless of where in the Empire research is conducted. Galician examples will illustrate birth, marriage and death records and the Empire-wide rules for keeping them. Land cadastral records and maps, Austrian military and Austrian census records will also be covered. True census records will be compared to *Status Animarum* and other records often mistaken as census records.

15 - How Family History Library Films are Acquired from the Former Soviet Sphere (Kahlile B. Mehr)

Collection Management at the Family History Library, Record Locations, Field Negotiations, Filming Procedures, Shipping, Receipt, Cataloging, and Distribution through the Family History Library Catalog. Understand why some records are acquired and others not. Improved ability to find information in the Family History Library Catalog.

16 - Northern Bukovina Records (Ukraine & Romania) (Kahlile B. Mehr)

How to determine the historical and modern place names and how to read the records which are in German and Romanian (in old Cyrillic script before 1875). This will help researchers to take advantage of the microfilms in the Family History Library collection which has begun acquiring records from the archive in Czernowitz (Chernovtsy, Chernivtsi, Cernauti).

17 - Finding Places in the Former Russian Empire (Kahlile B. Mehr)

How to identify localities by their various names and jurisdictions over time through the use of gazetteers and maps. This information will serve to solve locality name change problems, deal with jurisdiction changes, identify the most useful gazetteers and maps, help others solve locality problems.

18 - Russian Empire Genealogical Primer (Ukraine & Belarus) (Kahlile B. Mehr)

Understand the historical context, become acquainted with the best sources for genealogical research, the arrangement of records in an archive, options to acquire information from the sources, identify and use archival collections, and use the Internet to help do research.

19 - Adventures in Volhynia: Experience Western Ukraine Today (Dave Obee)

A light-hearted look at the thrills of traveling to do research. It's worth it, just to trudge down the dusty streets

where your ancestors once walked. A visit to your ancestral area can give you a better understanding of how your ancestors lived, and what your life would be like if they hadn't chosen to come to North America. Beyond that, there is a chance you'll make discoveries in archives that would be impossible without being there.

20 - Researching the German Colonies in Volhynia (Dave Obee)

The past decade has seen tremendous growth in the number of sources available to people who are researching Volhynian ancestry. These sources include ones available on the Internet, through libraries and archives in North America, in Germany and in Ukraine. They include everything from land records to census returns to church registers, and don't forget newspapers, too.

21 - EWZ: World War Two Immigration Records of Germans from East Europe (Dave Obee)

Between 1939 and 1945 more than 2.1 million ethnic Germans who had been living in other countries applied to move to the Reich. They were processed by the *Einwandererzentralstelle* (EWZ, literally Immigration Center), a central German authority for the immigration and naturalization. The EWZ files are available on thousands of rolls of microfilms.

22 - Locating Places in Poland: Gazetteers, Maps, and other Sources (Daniel M. Schlyter)

This lecture discusses the value and availability of Gazetteers, Maps, and the Internet to locate your ancestral town in Poland; also the effect of Polish, German, Latin, Russian, and Ukrainian orthography and grammar on the names of localities.

23 - Vital Records and other Resources in the Three Partitions of Poland (Daniel M. Schlyter)

A description of the keeping of vital records in each of the 3 partitions of Poland; Austria, Russia and Prussia. What information is included, the languages used, and comparative usage for genealogical research.

24 - Sources and Procedures for Genealogical Research in the Czech Republic (Daniel M. Schlyter)

This lecture discusses the essentials in Czech genealogical research: understanding the Czech Republic, its historical background, and the types of records available for genealogical research.

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25 - Changes in Eastern Europe and Family History Library Microfilming (Daniel M. Schlyter)

This lecture discusses Eastern European border changes and covers the history of what, when, and how the Family History Library has acquired the records in its collection including current acquisitions.

26 - Emigration: the Decision, Preparations to Leave, and the Paper Trail (Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius)

This lecture will explore the changes which encouraged people to emigrate, including economic, social, and political reasons, and will take a close look at the process of separating from the homeland and discovering the "paper trail" (i.e., passports) it created.

27 - German Ports, Emigration Literature, and the Voyage (Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius)

Attendees will learn how to use the vast supply of "emigration literature" (i.e., Passenger lists, Hamburg Police Records, etc.) to trace a genealogy, and learn how to recreate the journey and its hardships. Actual case studies will be drawn upon to strengthen the experience.

28 - Researching Your Slovak Roots in the 21st Century (Lisa A. Alzo)

Nearly 650,000 Slovaks came North America during the period of "mass migration" (1880-1914). This session will provide an overview of how to begin the research process. This session will cover: Locating home and family sources. Utilizing the Family History Library. Traditional and Web resources for determining the ancestral village. Tips for writing to Slovak archives. How to find and hire professional researchers. Strategies for overcoming the proverbial 'brick wall'.

29 - Heroes and Villains of the Ukrainian Church of Western Canada (Felix G. Kuehn)

The principal players in the drama of the Ukrainian Church in Manitoba provide us with an amazing series of contrasts. Three saints, one martyr, the co-conspirators of a plot to match the *Da Vinci Code*, a mentally-challenged "archimandrite, arch-pope, arch-patriarch," and numerous selfless missionaries all figure in the early history of the Ukrainian church in Manitoba. This is a non-judgmental presentation in which the audience will have the option to assess who were the "heroes and villains of the pioneer Ukrainian Church in Manitoba."

30 - Manitoba Genealogical Society Resources (Mary Bole)

This presentation will explore the resources available at the Manitoba Genealogical Society's Resource Center or Library. It will center on Manitoba resources, discussing the cemeteries and church records that have been transcribed, the obituaries and census returns that have been indexed, the value of local history books as well as some mention of our collection of directories, atlases, gazetteers, etc. The library houses nearly 10,000 items and now has five computers available for researchers. The talk will include some internet sites of interest to those searching in Manitoba.

31 - Getting Started in Genealogy (Joan Whiston)

The presentation will provide the basic guidelines when starting your search to find your ancestors, no matter where your roots take you. The use of various research tools (family group sheet, pedigree chart etc.) will be explained. Also discussed will be resources for identifying information.

32 - Mennonites and Hutterites: Beginnings and Early Developments (John J. Friesen)

Mennonites and Hutterites began in the midst of the sixteenth century reformations. This session will look at the issues that spawned their origins, and note the transition into continuing, settled communities. Special attention will be paid to the Dutch and Prussian Mennonite stories. References will be made to relevant resources for family history studies.

33 - Mennonites and Hutterites: Migrations and Settlements (John J. Friesen)

Attention will be given to the formation of Dutch Mennonite and Hutterite settlements, and their migrations, to Russia, North America, and Latin America. Some of the major settlement and migration records generated will be identified, and their present access identified.

34 - Palaeography: An Introduction to Reading and Interpreting Old Handwriting (Elizabeth Briggs)

Presentation includes: learning to read and understand modern English writing from the fifteenth century; writing materials; examples of handwriting with characteristic letters; yogh and thorn; techniques for reading old handwriting; and reading letters, words, phrases and sentences.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa A. Alzo grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of four books: *Three Slovak Women*, *Baba's Kitchen: Slovak and Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions* (both by Gateway Press), *Finding Your Slovak Ancestors* (Heritage Productions), and the recently released *Pittsburgh's Immigrants* (Arcadia Publishing), as well as numerous magazine articles. Lisa teaches classes for Myfamily.com and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She is the Second Vice President for FEEFHS, and also serves as on the Board of Directors for the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. Lisa is a frequently invited speaker for national conferences, and genealogical/historical societies.

Matthew Bielawa was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is the associate registrar at Central Connecticut State University, located in New Britain, Connecticut. Mr. Bielawa currently serves as vice president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. He earned a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut in 1989 and a M.A. degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures from New York University in 1994. His research specialization is Western Ukraine/Eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written several articles for various genealogical journals, and created a web page named www.halgai.com (the Genealogy of Halychyna (Western Ukraine) / Eastern Galicia). Mr. Bielawa has visited Ukraine, Poland and Russia several times, including a semester study at Leningrad State University. He currently resides in Stratford, Connecticut.

Mary Bole was born in Alberta, obtaining a B Ed. Degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Her teaching career was interrupted by raising two children and moving with her husband's job. She attended classes at the University of British Columbia on doing Genealogical Research using a Library. At the age of 50 she was the oldest member of her class of Library Technicians at Red River College. She then worked in a school library, and volunteered cataloguing the holdings of the Manitoba Genealogy Society. Now retired, Mary is the Library Chair for the Manitoba Genealogical Society. She first became interested in genealogy in 1975, has conducted extensive research at Salt Lake City, National Archives and Library of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario Archives in Toronto as well as visiting resources and family in England, Scotland and Italy.

Over the past thirty years she has published 12 family histories of her own and her husband's families.

Edward R. Brandt obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in 1970 and taught from that time until forced into early retirement due to a medical condition in 1992. He taught at 10 various colleges and universities including the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin. He learned the old Gothic script as a young student in Manitoba grade school. Two Foreign Service teaching assignments in Germany produced fluency in the language. Ed had been a genealogy addict for 40 years beginning in May 1966 when he discovered his mother-in-law's ancestral emigrants to Galicia. He was an Accredited Genealogist specializing in Germanic research from 1989 to 1999. Ed was a co-founder of the Germanic Genealogy Society, the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS). He has authored several books on German, Polish, and Hungarian topics. Apart from articles in dozens of journals, he is best known as chief co-author of *Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns* and the *Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia*. A companion volume for East Brandenburg, Pomerania, Posen and Silesia is in the works.

Elizabeth Briggs B.Sc., B.Ed., and M.Ed. was born and educated in Glamorgan, South Wales, completing her post-secondary education in Canada. She taught high school for many years, retired in 2003, and now volunteers at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg. Elizabeth completed courses on *Palaeography* at Brigham Young University and *Welsh Genealogy* in Aberystwyth, Wales. Elizabeth has written or co-authored many books to help people research their family history and has also written an eight week on-line course for the National Institute of Genealogy in Toronto on reading and interpreting old handwriting. She teaches genealogy courses in Winnipeg and has been an invited speaker at seminars across Canada, Orkney Family History Society, and Manitoba Genealogical Society. She was genealogist in residence in August 2005 at the Red River Reunion, a ten day conference at Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba. Elizabeth is a past president of the Manitoba Genealogical Society and she has co-chaired two seminars. She has researched family history in the national archives of Canada, U.S.A, and England; provincial archives in Canada; county archives in Britain; and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

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Thomas K. Edlund a specialist in East European languages and manuscripts, is an Associate Professor of Family and Local History, Brigham Young University and formerly Senior Librarian of Slavic Bibliography at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. He has graduated from the University of Utah, the Defense Language Institute Presidio of Monterey, the University of Maryland, Brigham Young University, et al. He has authored many books on language and genealogy, including *The Lutherans of Russia*, *Die Ahnenstammkartei des Deutschen Volkes*, *Medieval Latin for Family Historians*, *An Introduction and Index to the German Minority Census of 1939*, and *A Compendium of Nahuatl Dialectology*. He has served as Editor of the FEEFHS Journal since 1998.

Thelma Findlay is an avid genealogist with 25 years of research on several family lines for her husband and herself, with ancestral roots in Ukraine/Poland (Austro-Hungary), Scotland, and England. She has written her Nahnybida family history, "*Who Do I Love ... the Nahnybida / Lewandoski Family History*", and has convened two family reunions for these family lines. Traveling to Ukraine on several occasions has provided opportunities to do extended research at the Archives and build on the family histories; as well as trod on the soils of her ancestors. Her volunteer time has been lent in different capacities on the Boards of the Manitoba Genealogical Society and the East European Genealogical Society; and was instrumental in hosting the *Kanada, a New Beginning* convention for European research in the early 1990s. Unraveling the past and recording the family history for generations to come is her lasting legacy.

John J. Friesen is professor emeritus at the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba having taught Mennonite history for more than 35 years. He has traveled in the former Mennonite communities in the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and Russia. In 1989 he edited a book of articles by various scholars entitled *Mennonites in Russia*, covering the years from 1789-1989. Friesen has spent time researching the Mennonite story in the archives in Gdansk, and has published a number of articles about the Mennonite experience in Poland/Prussia. He is semi-retired and lives in Winnipeg with his wife Dorothy.

Denise Kolesar holds a Red River College Computer Analyst Programmer Diploma and has worked in the IT field for over 20 years. Denise designed, developed and delivered computer workshops to staff and clients and is continually upgrading her skills. She is a founding member of the East European Genealogical Society and served in various executive and council capacities with the society over the years. Denise has been actively pursuing her Slovak, Ukrainian and Polish ancestry for over 15 years. She conceived, designed, and acted as the first editor and desktop publisher of the East European Genealogist. In addition to Computer Committee Chairperson for EEGS, she also served in the same capacity for the Manitoba Genealogical Society. Denise researched and assisted with the publication of "*Looking Back*" a History of Mountain Road, Manitoba and is currently working on a [pictorial](#) history of the area.

Felix G. Kuehn began his historical research at age six when he undertook to write *The Story of Our Farm, the Walrond Ranche at Pembina Crossing, Manitoba, and of Sir John Walrond-Walrond, its Founder, as told by Miss Margaret Young, Who Remembers Seeing Him*. At sixteen he began his genealogical research to document the recollections of his grandfather, a story that uncovered the roots and branches of his father's family in Germany, Poland, Russia, Brazil, Argentina, the USA, and Canada. Author of numerous books, pamphlets and brochures and contributor to many community and family histories, Mr. Kuehn is sought after for his thorough research and documentation. He was instrumental in starting the first Lutheran Historical Society in Western Canada, collaborating to write the book "*...And They Built An Altar*." As founding president of The Boundary Commission/North West Mounted Police Trail Association he compiled a series of books and pamphlets on the history of southern Manitoba, telling *A Story for Every Mile*, as well as coordinated a two-week historical Wagon Train across southern Manitoba. He participated at a variety of religious and historical conferences and symposiums have enjoyed the engaging wit and integrity of research that Mr. Kuehn presents as a guest speaker. He is also an artist of international renown with his historical sketches of the Eastern Church. (Avvakum Art on the web).

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Brian J. Lenius lives in Selkirk, Manitoba and is employed at The Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg. He has conducted East European research specializing in the former Austrian province of Galicia for over 20 years. He is author and publisher of the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia: Expanded Data Edition* and numerous articles on Galician and Austrian research published in various Polish, East European, and other genealogical periodicals. Brian was the founding 1st Vice-president of the *Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)* and co-founder of the *East European Genealogical Society (EEGS)* holding the position of President for four years and Journal Editor of the *East European Genealogist* for 8 years. Brian has presented research oriented lectures to numerous Genealogical Societies in Canada and the USA. He has undertaken seven extended research trips in Poland, Ukraine, Austria, Czech Rep., and Germany (1994 to 2005) greatly expanding resources available to North American genealogical researchers.

Kahlile B. Mehr MA, MLS, AG, has twenty-five years experience at the Family History Library as a manager of user guidance, collection development specialist, supervisor, and cataloger. He has visited archives in Spain, Portugal, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Moldova. He has taught the Introduction to Family History Course at Brigham Young University and at the annual Brigham Young Family History Conference. He has published seventeen articles and a book on family and local history topics, and compiled genealogies professionally for: Test Pilot, Chuck Yeager and the Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh.

Dave Obee is the president of the Federation of East European Family History Societies. He also runs *Volhynia.com*, a website dedicated to the past and future of the region in the northwest corner of Ukraine. Dave has been working on his own family history since 1978, and has travelled extensively to do his research. He has made nine trips to Europe in recent years, visiting 14 countries but putting special emphasis on Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Germany. Dave is an owner of *Interlink Bookshop and Genealogical Services of Victoria, B.C.* including as *Genealogy Unlimited*, which specializes in books and maps from Europe. He has compiled six books for Canadian genealogists, and has given more than 200 talks at seminars and society meetings since 1997. Dave has been a newspaper reporter or editor for several different newspapers in

British Columbia and Alberta since 1972. He is currently editorial page editor of the *Victoria Times Colonist*.

Daniel M. Schlyter is a Collection Management Specialist for the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah, responsible for Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Previously, he worked 18 years assisting researchers with Eastern European, German, and Jewish genealogical problems. An accredited genealogist for Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, he served on the Polish Genealogical Society of America board from 1984 to 1999 and now serves on the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He has authored several genealogical books, numerous articles as well as Family History Library instructional aids.

Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius MA (Education) is an internationally known author, columnist, and professional genealogist, who has lectured extensively throughout the United States and Canada for over 30 years. She has been pursuing her own family history for 38 years since 1968. Her Germanic roots originate in Holstein and Hessen (German Empire) and her Czech roots in Bohemia (Austrian Empire). She is the author/compiler of numerous articles and books, including *A Guide to Foreign Genealogical Research*, *Tracing Your Swiss Roots*, *Tracing your Polish Roots*, *Tracing your Czech Roots*, and *German Immigration to America in the 19th Century*. Special projects include documenting the lives and journeys of the group of Swiss and de Meuron soldiers who settled in the Red River Settlement between 1817 and 1821. Another project, in progress since 1980, is a comprehensive study of Swiss immigration to Wisconsin during the 19th century. Formerly a teacher of History and Geography, she is interested in methods and materials for the teaching of family history at all grade levels. She is a member of numerous national, state, and ethnic societies.

Joan Whiston has been researching her family history for over twenty five years, mostly in Canada, England and Scotland. As a volunteer for the Manitoba Genealogical Society, she has served as Treasurer and is presently the Vice President of Administration, as well as being involved in the Outreach Program. For the past five years, Joan has presented to large and small groups on how to get started researching family history and is currently teaching a 10 hour course through Creative Retirement. She was employed in the legal field for over 30 years.