



The Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.

Founded by , Al Peterlin, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, in 1986



[SGSI Home Page](#)

Volume 3 Issue 1 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society January 1989

Welcome to this first newsletter of our third year in publication. As I mentioned previously, we already have enough personal stories to fill this year's quota of newsletters. However, time moves quickly, and we want to encourage each and every member to start preparing something for our use in 1990. Don't put it off. Start now.

I have received several publications from Slovenian organizations in Australia. For information on subscribing to *Moja Slovenija*, write to PO Box 153, Rydalmere 2116 NSW Australia. This publication is printed in Slovenian. We would like to hear from our members who subscribe to any of the numerous Slovenian publications available from across the globe. We do not have the funds to subscribe to these useful, information sources, let alone the time to peruse them. If you can volunteer the time, we would like to know what you subscribe to. We would also like about 10 sentences describing the publication so we can pass the word on to all our members.

One of our members suggested we try to collect a one-page description of as many Slovenian towns and villages as possible. While this seems like a next to impossible task on the surface, there are several viable solutions if our membership would become active. There are many Slovenian organizations across the country, including heritage and musical groups, as well as Slovenian social clubs and homes for the aged. If we could have a volunteer visit each club or home and persuade each elderly member to write or dictate a page on their home town, we'd have an atlas in no time. Many Catholic schools have programs where school children visit nursing homes. Each child could record a page of history from an elderly patient. Finally, we have one copy of *Krajevni Leksikon*, which was published in Slovenian in 1950. It contains over 600 pages of information on many cities across Slovenia. If we had a large group of individuals who could translate this book, we would be happy to mail it. Again, this could be a wonderful project for a rest home as long as one of our members could organize the unit and serve as a coordinator.

This quarters final plea. We are still in need of a typist. We have completed the translation of Trunk, and we would like to have it typed in a consistent format so we can seek a publisher. It includes about 300 pages, a large project, but there is no deadline. You set the pace: we offer the gratitude.

We received several new church histories in recent months. Janet Maurin, rectory secretary, for SS Cyril & Methodius Church in Sheboygan, also sent along a very nice writeup on their parish Slovenian Youth Singers and Dancers. In so many cases, worthwhile projects begin with a few individuals willing to do more than their fair share to get a project off the ground. We now have parish histories from Slovenian parishes in Evelyth, Minnesota; Indianapolis, Indiana; Waukegan, Illinois, Fairfield, Connecticut; Barberton, Ohio; Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Ely, Minnesota; Bridgeville, Pennsylvania; Euclid, Ohio; Lorain, Ohio; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Lemont, Illinois; Greenfield, Wisconsin; Chisholm, Minnesota; Forest City, Pennsylvania; Joliet, Illinois; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Pueblo, Colorado; Lasalle, Illinois; Chicago, Illinois; and Cleveland, Ohio. If your town is not listed, please obtain a parish history (original or photocopy) and mail it to us.

Several members have asked for the address of a business selling Slovenian dictionaries and other Slovenian publications, such as, *Atlas Slovenia*. We offer no recommendations, but we have seen Tivoli Enterprises, 6419 St. Clair, Cleveland, Ohio, 44103, advertise in newspapers serving the Slovenian community. **(NO LONGER IN BUSINESS)**

RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

By: John Dremel Jr.

Anyone who has been engaged in researching their Slovenian ancestors has without a doubt found it to be a very fascinating "detective story". There are numerous deadends, unexpected new leads and often a "one in a million" coincidence that breaks a deadlock in the research. I'd like to relate one of my "one in a million" chance finds. I started my genealogical research very late in life. My parents had both died and I had very little in the way of letters, documents, or any other basis for a beginning. The only family I ever knew were my own parents and my brothers and sisters. My dad talked about arriving and working in Chicago when he came to the United States in 1905. So, for a start, I wrote to the Bureau of Census for the Cook County 1910 Census line for John Dremelj. When it arrived it indicated something we somehow suspected but never knew for sure...Our dad was married in Chicago, previous to our mother, to an Ana Remos, a woman with three children. Further inquiries to Chicago gave us their marriage license and from that, the church in which they were married. A letter to the church, which still exists, gave me the names of my father's first wife's parents but nothing else. There was no record of her place of birth or of any birth, baptism, communion, or death of the three children. Nor were there in the official Chicago files.

The mystery of my dad's first wife began to deepen and I was determined to find out who she was and what happened to my apparent half-brothers and sister. My father married my mother in 1913 in Pueblo, Colorado. I thought Ana may have died in Pueblo. I wrote there for Ana's death certificate and received it. It showed no new information. I add that she was born by Skofja Loka, Austria, now Slovenia, in a village called TRATA. With nowhere else to go, I wrote to the "Maticini Urad", Skofja Loka, asking for her birth certificate. Trata is a long ways (by 1900 standards) from where my father was born and I knew of none of our family in that area.

The letter I received in return, however, was not from the civil authorities in Skofja Loka. It was written by a person named Dremelj. It seems that on the day my letter arrived at the records office a lawyer named Martin Dremelj happened by the registrar's desk. The official asked the lawyer if he would like to read my inquiry since it came from a Dremel in America. The official could find no record of my father's first wife, as it turned out. Martin Dremelj copied my letter and showed it to his brother, Dr. Tone Dremelj, who immediately saw our relationship through the bit of biographical data I gave. It developed that Dr. Tone Dremelj's grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. I had found, by the shearest of chance, cousins I did not know existed. We became fast friends.

Dr. Dremelj was retired and expressed great interest in gathering data for our genealogy. I invited him to come to visit us in the United States and he came. We had a great time showing him around California. On his return to Slovenia (Ljubljana), he began to send me great amounts of data for the genealogy. He made trips to the villages, to the churches and to the people he found. When the Church records in the villages were transferred to the central Archives in Ljubljana, he researched them there. I would integrate the data and send copies of the results back to him. He was a godsend. He was a lawyer and a judge before retiring so he reads and writes Slovenian, German, and Latin. Research into old Church records and files of the archives in Ljubljana requires knowledge of all three languages. And since I had no way of doing the research in Slovenia, nor could I have afforded to pay for such services, my cousin's research was of incalculable value. As a result of that "one in a million" coincidence of a letter arriving at the same time as a Dremelj entered the registrar's office, I have had my family researched back to the year 1660. I have 300 family names and 1000 given names.

By the way, all the expert efforts of Dr. Dremelj to date still have not located any record of my dad's first wife's birth or of her family. I am still wandering that trail.

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Volume 3 Issue 2 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society April 1989

We have heard from another member, Joanne Fix, that she purchased a very nice English to Slovene, Slovene to English dictionary from *The Free Press, 216 West Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719*. The book is small and easily carried. She noted that when she visited Slovenia, her relatives there were using the same dictionary. In 1985, the cost was \$12.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Prices have probably gone up. It would pay to write and inquire before sending an order. If any member does write, please ask for a listing of all other publications that might be of interest and send a copy to us to share with all our members.

Since our last newsletter, I have heard from **(No Longer in Business)** Tivoli Enterprises, 6419 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103. They list several English/Slovene dictionaries ranging in price from \$11.50 to \$35.00. They also have a book called ***The Slovenians*** offering insights into Slovenian history, tradition, and roots. *Treasure Chest of Slovenia* (in English) is another excellent book with beautiful illustrations. There are too many other books to list, as well as maps of Slovenia, and cassettes for language study. They also offer VHS tapes on Slovenian life, some drama, and Folklore. Let us know your opinion if you order anything.

I personally purchase just one genealogy book each year, so I try to make each purchase worth my while. This year, I purchased a book called ***The Library, a Guide to the LDS Family History Library***, edited by John Cerny & Wendy Elliott. The book is excellent. It describes in magnificent detail the holdings of the LDS Library for almost every country under the sun. Sadly, the holdings for Yugoslavia, indeed for almost all of Eastern Europe, are limited. The only census listed is the 1828 Hungarian census that included portions of present day Yugoslavia, but none of Slovenia. While the LDS Library has completed extensive microfilming of many Roman Catholic Church records in Europe, they have to date filmed only 12 churches in Slovenia, all parishes in the area formerly known as Banat. This book is a must for serious genealogists. However, we Slovenian genealogists will have no other option than to continue collecting more of our own material until the LDS Library can turn its attention to Eastern Europe.

You probably already know that the Ellis Island Immigration Museum is preparing for the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. In June, 1991, The Family History Center at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum will have a computer data base on line that will allow visitors to search through the records of the 17 million people who were processed into this country from 1892 to 1954. Original ship manifests are included so visitors should be able to determine where their ancestors came from, their ages, even what they carried with them. A special program is being developed to track immigrants whose names were spelled phonetically or changed by immigration officials. This could become a major resource for our membership.

FINDING MY ROOTS

By: Doris V. Commins

When I began researching my family a year and a half ago, I never expected to spend a month in Yugoslavia either on research or a vacation, but that's exactly what happened. Genealogy has become an exciting interest for both my husband and me. We have written to relatives not contacted in decades here in the United States, visited our hometown's, attended an Elderhostel on genealogy in Provo, Utah, last March, joined several genealogy societies in our home states and attended conferences and classes in Milwaukee, written to church and civil archives in foreign countries, and finally turned up in person in Metlika and Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Both my Irish as well as my Slovenian ancestors settled in Joliet, Illinois. In the beginning, I did most of my research by mail. I asked archive sources in Slovenia for specific data. Information sent by the Yugoslavian archives included the names of my grandfather, Mathew Sodez's parents and grandparents who lived in Rosalnice, and finally, a baptismal record of my grandmother, Agnes Znidarsic, from BojanjaVas. Further inquiries referred me to the Metlika records. Letters to the civil record's office and the local priest in Slovenia went unanswered. Rather than lose any more time, we decided to travel to Slovenia on our own.

On June 20th, we arrived in Zagreb. The next morning we drove to Metlika, about a three-hour trip. Slovenia was more beautiful than could be imagined, especially the mountainous countryside. Our hearts sank when we arrived at the only hotel in a town of perhaps 8,000 and found no one speaking English. We parked in the town square, wandered into an official-looking building, and there found a "guardian angel", Franc Zist, the district engineer who had a career in the Yugoslavian merchant Marine and had spent time in America. He looked at my correspondence, said, "We are from different countries, and we must help each other."

After a telephone call, he took us across the street to the civil archives office, spoke to the clerk, and she spent the rest of the afternoon, looking up birth records from my mother's sisters and brothers who were born in Rosalnice, as well as my grandparents marriage record, and birth records of other family members. Franc took the records to his own office and photocopied them until he ran out of large paper.

The next morning he took us to Fr. Albin Znidarsic, (my family name,) the priest at St. Nicholas Church next door, and again, we spent several hours copying my Sodez family group records as far back as 1740. It was an incredible experience.

That evening, Franc and his friend, Josef, who knew all the area priests, went with us to Sunor, another village in search of BojanjaVas records. The young priest, Fr. Franc Sifrar, was just coming in from his fields where he farms a huge number of acres of vegetables and grape vines, as well as caring for ten cows-all to support his parish of 700 souls. He was most gracious but his records did not go back far enough. He suggested Radowica, but the priest was not home there. Franc took us to his own home for wine, cheese, sausage, and bread, and lovely folk music.

The next morning, while Fr. Znidarsic was out of town, Franc took us sightseeing in Metlika, then back to the rectory for more records. Fr. Znidarsic mentioned there were still descendants living at the family farm in Rosalnice if we would like to meet them!!! We would and did. The priest and Franc accompanied us to Rosalnice 31 in a torrential downpour and there we met a grandson of my grandmother's oldest sister (whom I had not known existed until this trip.) Martin Jurejevic and his wife, Kristin live there. They welcomed us with smiles and hospitality. We met one of their married daughters and her small son as well.

Naturally we took pictures. We were all so excited that I am sure we did not ask half the right questions as Franc translated for us. After almost a two-hour visit, Fr. Znidarsic took us to the church close by and the cemetery. We had driven up there alone previously and looked for family grave markers, but the church had been closed. This time he unlocked it and we stood where so many of my ancestors had worshipped. It was an unbelievable moving experience.

The next day we left for Bucan near the Adriatic coast to visit distant cousins we had never met. Then we were on to Ljubljana. From our hotel, I telephoned the church Ordinariat and finally, I was connected to someone who spoke English. I was told Fr. Doinar was in another job, but I could come the next morning when the archives would be open until noon.

Sr. Fani Znidarsic arrived and got out earlier marriage and death record books for us. It was slow going with hand copying German Fraktur script and some Slovenian.

We found the church archives were only open Monday to Wednesday mornings, so on Thursday we tackled the civil archives. On the third floor we found a large room with about ten tables. Gene Rak of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was also researching families who had settled in Joliet. I gave him the Slovenian Genealogy Society's address as well as Michael Vidmar's.

Again we worked most of the day, without lunch, copying marriage and death records. Their archives were open Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Friday started at 11:00 am. You have to ask for books for specific villages or areas and years, but the clerks do not have time for assistance.

The next morning we left to join a bus tour. After returning home and charting all my notes, I realized I had an enormous amount of material. Untangling the multiple marriages and children and tracing families for 20 Rosalnice and two BojanjaVas households has been a priceless experience.

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Volume 3 Issue 3 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society July 1989

"Not a day passes over this earth, but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words and suffer noble sorrows." I could think of no better words to begin this newsletter than these words of Charles Dickens. In this time of scandalous actions by actors, athletes, and politicians, all heroes of the popular press, these words of Dickens serve to lift the spirits of those of us who know that society is only as strong as the ordinary people of a country make it. Let us continue to safeguard the memory and heritage of our Slovenian ancestors.

The *American Slovenian Heritage Club* of Forest City, Pennsylvania, has published a book of photos and history covering the Slovene immigrants to the Forest City area. There are over 250 pictures and 25 pages of history of these early Forest City residents. To obtain a copy: write to **Heritage Book Fund**, c/o Barbara Puchnick, 823 Railroad Street, Forest City, PA 18421. The book is \$25.00 with an additional \$2.00 needed for postage.

We are also pleased that Barbara and some other volunteers are now working on the final editing process for our translation of *Trunk*. We have had many requests for a copy of this translation. We hope to have it to a publisher late this summer. Barbara's experience in publishing the book for the Heritage Club can only help in our effort. I am also very pleased to add that Mary Lou Davison has completed the final alphabetization and indexing of a compilation of marriage announcements that has appeared in the *Forest City News* since 1898. We hope to have this 60-page booklet to a genealogical publisher sometime this year. Barbara Puchnick has also been closely connected with this project also.

It seems that 90% of our projects are completed by 10% of our members. We wish we could get more of you involved in a project of some kind. Please write if you are willing to type, translate, or participate in another way. Remember, please send us any old book or documents about the Slovenian people you come across.

Elizabeth A. Nick, who publishes *The Gottschee Tree*, PO Box 725, Louisville, CO, 80027-0725, shared a partial listing of information about Slovenia that is available through the LDS Family Genealogical Library. They include: *The Slovene Minority of Carinthia*, Barker, Thomas M. published in 1984; *Austria, Krain, Business Records and Commerce* (This includes commercial and financial accounts of cities and towns in Krain, Austria, recorded in the archives in Laibach, now Ljubljana); *Austria, Krain, Church History, Diocese of Laibach*; *Austria, Krain, Valdes, Land and Property*; *Valdes, Krain. Herrschaft Registraturbucher, Urbare, etc. 1583-1785 Leipzig: Zentralstelle fur Genealogie, 1984* (These are minute books, land and tax record for Valdes estate, Krain, now Bled). Prior to 1858 Valdes belonged to Brimm, Tirol. The text is in Latin and German. Remember, when searching for information about Slovenia in LDS sources, you must search under Austria, Krain, the name our part of the world was known as when it was dominated by Austria-Hungary.

Coincidentally, I received a letter from Barry Kirk, European Research Specialist, with the LDS on the same day I received the correspondence from Elizabeth Nick. Barry explained that most of the records the LDS has from Slovenia are from the former Banat area. However, he added that the LDS has recently renewed filming in Yugoslavia, and many additional records should be available in the next few years. This means that the early 1990's should be a very informative time for Slovenian genealogists. We can look forward to a significant increase in records maintained by LDS, the 1920 census records should then be opened to the public, and the computerized access to immigration records will then be available at Ellis Island Museum.

We would like to know if any of our members are also members of the **Croatian, Slovenian, and Serbian Genealogical Society**. Adam S. Eterovich is President of this Society and he is without question, the most knowledgeable Yugoslavian genealogist in this country. Please share any information you may have obtained from Adam.

We have a copy of the **KSKJ Jubilee book, 1894-1924**. It is a rich source of information about turn of the century Slovenians. Father K. Langerholz, St. Stephen's Church in Chicago, Illinois, has begun compiling an every name index for the book. He has completed pulling each name from the document. We are now in need of additional volunteers to begin putting the names in alphabetical order and then typing them into publishing form. As with all projects, there is no deadline to pressure you. If you could offer us several hours a week over the course of the year, please write.

Finally, Mr. John Dremel, has given us a massive genealogical outline of his family--the Dremel-Garvas family line entails literally hundreds of names. John also included an every name index, so the work can be searched easily if you believe you may have an interest in this line. We are enclosing a list of surnames from this collection with this newsletter.

SEARCH FOR MY SLOVENIAN ROOTS

By: Marilyn O'Korn-Owen

I became interested in Slovenian genealogy after finding some old unlabeled pictures in the attic of my grandfather's house. Who were these people dressed in their finery and posing so seriously for the camera? With the pictures were some old letters written in Slovenian.

In most cases the old letters were trivial. They were short and imparted little information about their daily lives or concerns. Perhaps a result of the gulf of an ocean separating brother and sister, of the emotion-charged atmosphere of their leave-taking, and of a world of difference in life-styles and experiences. All of these things made communication hesitant and brief. My grand parents came to this country from Slovenia, met and married here. My parents were too busy learning English and assimilating to care to hear much about the Old Country. Because Grandma died young, when her children were seven to fifteen years old, not much in the way of family information was passed on. My mother grew up thinking she had no relatives. Grandpa died in 1952 when I was two years old.

It waited until 1987 for my relatives to be found. With my push my mother begin to translate the long-forgotten letters. One written in 1914 began...Prelubra sestra (dearest sister). The man had written in a very legible hand, always giving his address. He had a different surname than her mother's maiden name and yet, he signed off. *tvoj brat* (your brother) F.G. Intriguing! What was the connection???

I wrote to this old 1914 address in Montana, addressing my query "Family Tree Search", to the family of F. G. I had my doubts the man would even be alive, but after looking the place up on a map and seeing it was a small town, I figured chances were good that someone in town would recognize the name and possibly know of the family. It was a lucky hunch. As it turned out the man and his wife was dead, having five daughters, but being married they no longer had their maiden names. However, someone in the post office knew of the family and forwarded the letter on to a grandson in a nearby town. He replied to my letter. His grandfather was F.G., but he knew of no brothers and sisters F.G. had. He did forward a copy of my letter on to his aunt. She in turn remembered a bit more. Correspondence ensued back and forth, and now my mother, at the age of 66, has her first real live cousin, albeit a half-relation.

Seeing the success of this query, I wrote to the other addresses given on the old letters. One dated 1935, from Novo Mesto, was written by my grandfather's brother. Another letter written in 1950, from Bericevo was signed, your sister NPL. Amazingly, after all these years, family members still lived in these same localities. (In both cases the addresses were similar on the 1987 replies except for slight house number changes. Koraskavas 6 became Koraskavas 14, etc.) The granddaughter of the 1950 letter writer has recently written to me some letters I deeply cherish. In the first she details the family relationships and in subsequent letters she has sent pictures and details of her family life. It fascinates me that for all these years we had relatives we did no know about.

An interesting note on this family tree: F.G. and my grandmother had the same mother but different fathers, hence the different last names. When my great grandmother died, great grandfather

fathers, hence the different last names. When my great grandmother died, great-grandfather remarried and had more children. As a result, my grandmother had a second set of half-brother and half-sisters. M.B. married F.G. and had one known son - F.G. F.G., the husband dies. M.B. marries A. P. They have two daughters-my grandmother and F.P. My great-grandmother, M.B., dies and my great-grandfather remarried and has two more daughters. One of which is the writer of the 1950 letter, MPL. Do any of you readers want to hazard a guess as to what the relationship would be between these various half-brothers and sisters, and their progeny?

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A friend from overseas sent me a floppy disk for an Atari 1040 ST, 520ST+. It contains a Slovene-English dictionary. I mention this in the unlikely event one of our readers has a machine to access this disk. It seems the European version of this machine is sufficiently different from the American version to make access difficult if not impossible. If you think you can access the disk, write to me and I'll mail the disk to you. We would like a hard copy of the dictionary.

Several members are seriously seeking a researcher in Slovenia. If you know of someone who will do research for a fee, please furnish the names to us. I know several of our members have relatives near Ljubljana. Maybe research could become a paying sideline for one of them.

We are enclosing a list of books available from *Studia Slovenica* with this issue. If you order anything, let them know you heard about them through us. Also, let us know about the service you receive, and prepare a report on the works you purchase for our newsletter.

CHURCH RECORDS HELD BY THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS

By: Nancy L. Moore

The Slovenian records compiled by the LDS are for Semitsch, Krain, Austria, which is now the parish of Semic, Slovenia, in Yugoslavia. Parish registers for baptisms, marriages, and deaths have been microfilmed. The text is in German, Slovenian, and Latin. The records include baptisms from 1671 to 1941, marriages from 1784 to 1941, and deaths from 1721 to 1941. However, there are many blank spaces in the record. The films can be rented through branch libraries of the LDS. Indefinite fees are about \$6.00 to \$7.00. The indefinite loan fee is tax deductible.

MY SLOVENIAN FAMILY

By: Joanne Plut Fix

My grandfather, Joseph Plut, emigrated to the U.S. from the old empire of Austria-Hungary in 1883. He first went to Joliet, Illinois, where he worked on the railroad for a short time. He then went to Minnesota where he became a peddler, traveling from farm to farm in the Stearns County area where a group of Slovenes had settled. At the farm of George Weis, he met the girl who was to become my grandmother, but before that happened, he moved to Wahpeton, Dakota Territory, where he clerked in a store until he was able to save enough money to open a store of his own near Fort Sisseton in present day South Dakota. When the nearby Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation was opened for settlement, he started another store in the new town of Sisseton after going back to Minnesota to marry Katherina Weis. They made their home in Sisseton for the next 50 years.

Plut was an unusual name in a community of Scandinavians, Germans, and Yankees. We were a close knit family who maintained ties with my grandmother Weis's family in Minnesota. When I inquired if my grandmother had any relatives in the U.S., the answer was only a niece named Mary Zimmerman Grahek, who lived in Calumet, Michigan.

I knew that my grandfather had a brother named Stephan who spent a year in the United States with my grandfather, but he had returned to Europe because of ill health. He lived in Kranj, Yugoslavia. After World War II, we sent "CARE" packages to him. By then, my grandparents had died. Soon, Uncle Steve and his wife were also gone. Correspondence dwindled and then stopped altogether. I had a few of the letters from Uncle Steve's family, usually written by his grandson, a young medical student who knew English. These were our last links to Yugoslavia because my grandfather's niece had also died.

I have always been interested in family history, but typically, I didn't begin searching seriously until after many of the individuals who could have helped me were no longer living. I was able to contact the children of my grandfather's niece, but they too had lost touch with the family in Yugoslavia. They shared what information they had. It then seemed impossible to obtain any more information from Yugoslavia. Because Plut was an unusual last name, I wrote to various individuals with that name, but none led to my grandfather's family.

A few more years went by. Then, I received a letter from a cousin who was making a trip to Yugoslavia. He wanted some family information. I sent him the names I had gleaned from the early correspondence. Upon my cousin's arrival in Yugoslavia, he drove to Crnomelj, my grandfather's birthplace. The priest there gave him the name and address of an individual he should contact. However, neither my cousin nor I, at a later date, could read the priest's handwriting. However during an unscheduled brief stop in Ljubljana, my cousin was able to obtain addresses for the names I had given him.

My first response was to write the former medical student, now a doctor, who had written to us in English. Another cousin, who lives in San Francisco area, was acquainted with Slovenian people who helped him compose letters in Slovenian to send to our cousins in Slovenia.

We received immediate replies from the Yugoslav Pluts. They were delighted to hear from their American cousins. We exchanged family information through which I learned that my grandfather had another niece living in the United States, and not far from me. Her name was Theresa Plut Gerzin. She lived in Chisholm, Minnesota. When I contacted her I learned that the Plut family actually lived at Rucetna Vas near Crnomelj. She told me many of the family stories and a brief history of the Plut's of Rucetna Vas, as it had been told to her. The Plut's were supposed to have come to Rucetna Vas from Semic.

After two years of correspondence with the Yugoslav Pluts, my cousin and I decided to go to Yugoslavia. I wrote to the Yugoslav cousins, carefully explaining when we were arriving and where we would be staying, leaving room for the possibility that we might not find each other congenial.

When our plane landed in Ljubljana, our Yugoslav cousins were waiting for us, literally with open arms. They announced that our first weekend in their country was to be Family Plut weekend. They took us to Rucetna Vas to see our grandfather's birthplace and to meet the cousins who still lived in the village. They showed us the beauty of Slovenia as well as it's historical sites. In the evenings, we lingered over late dinners, talking, exchanging ideas, comparing countries, and sharing laughter.

During the week when our cousins were working, we Americans explored the city of Ljubljana. We discovered that the address given by the priest at Crnomelj was that of the church archives. Although he had been warned that one needed an appointment, we stumbled upon it and were made welcome. Using the church records, especially the status animarium, I was able to trace the Plut family for seven generations. I regretted not having more time for research but since the weekend in Yugoslavia begins on Thursday and the Archives are only open from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, I was lucky to get what I did. I had no time at all to search for the Weis family, who I am sure also came from another town in the same area, Bela Krajina.

The time went by so swiftly. Our vacation was over. As we waited for our return flight to the United States, the tears began to flow. "You will come again?" they asked. My answer then was no, but now I

States, the tears began to flow. "You will come again?", they asked. My answer then was no, but now I know I have to return again someday. The next trip won't be the exciting adventure of the first. It will be different. Perhaps it can best be described as having that special feeling that one gets when going home again.

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