



## The Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.

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



[SGSI Home Page](#)

### Volume 8 Issue 1 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society January 1, 1994

In our last newsletter, I introduced our new Curator, Mary Pavlic. Unfortunately, the address I printed was incorrect. Mary's correct address is 3212 Parkridge Crescent, Chamblee, Georgia, 33041. Mary is actively seeking additions to our library. If you can donate any publication, on or about Slovenians, in Slovenian or English, please contact Mary.

I'd like to introduce two new board members, Nancy Burnett, and Ed Skender. Write Dr. Burnett at P.O. Box 1676, Sandpoint, Indiana, 83864. Nancy will be organizing our translating projects. She will need additional translators, so please contact her if you read Slovenia and are willing to donate some time. Ed can be reached at 6340 Stephens Crossing, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 17055. He will be our official historian. Ed has already written a very interesting history of Krain, large part of present day Slovenia. He will be working to expand the history to cover all of present day Slovenia over the next few years.

We are actively pursuing a photocopy of an 18-volume text *Ehre des Herzogtums Krain* that was written in the late 1600's by Johann Weickhart Freiherr von Valvasor. The original is written in German. Some have been translated into Slovene. Our desire is to collect all volumes, either in Slovenian or in German and to translate the complete set into English. Please contact the Society or Ed Skender if you can provide us copies of the text.

We frequently receive requests from our members for names of individuals willing to complete genealogical research in Slovenia for a fee. With the changes taking place in Europe, and Slovenia, in particular, we've been receiving requests from researchers asking us to make their names available to our members. The question for our memberships is, "Should we make the names of researchers in Slovenia available through the newsletter, or should we continue holding the names of researchers in a file and provide the information to members who write and ask specifically for that type of information?" It must be stated that the names of researchers in Slovenia we are receiving are completely unknown to us. We will make no representation of either their ability or business practices.

Many of our ancestors worked in coal mines when they arrived in this country. The coal mining companies have been consolidating for decades, and it's difficult and frustrating to find and gain access to mining company records. Our Society is always trying to find this type of record because they contain such valuable information. In Northeastern Pennsylvania, mining records (1890-1960) for the Hudson Coal Companies can be found at the Carbondale Historical Society, P.O. Box 151, Carbondale, Pennsylvania, 18407. The library is open on Wednesdays from 9am to 5pm or by appointment. Individual surname searches requested by mail are \$15. Also, the coal mine operated as a tourist attraction at McDade Park, Milwaukee Road, Scranton, Pennsylvania, has many old mining records. If you know of additional sources of mining records, please share the information with our readers.

The John Charles Vidmar Family Association is compiling information on Vidmar family histories. They are especially interested in information about birth, death, marriage, points of origin in Europe, and movements in the USA since coming to the USA. To share information, write: Matthew C. Hawkins, P.O. Box 4983, Spokane, Washington, 99202.

Looking for information about the following families: PUCELJ, RIGLER, CHAMPA, HOENIGMAN, and LUCIN. Known relatives live in Montana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Emigrated from Slovenia to the USA 1893-1906. Contact Patricia Sink. 33 Robin Lane. Fenton, Missouri. 63026.

USA 1893-1906. Contact Patricia Sink, 33 Robin Lane, Fenton, Missouri, 63026.

Daughter Majda would like to contact Karel (Drago) Kovacic. Karel was born in Ljubljana in 1914. He left Slovenia in 1945. Last know USA address was New Orleans. Call 212/387-0089 with information.

John ZAKRAJSEK, 114 Pottawattomi Drive, Elkhart, Indiana, 46156, is interested in the Zakrajsek and Vozel family histories. Please write.

## **MICROFILMED CHURCH RECORDS FROM SLOVENIA**

*By: Joanne Fix*

Microfilm of church records from Slovenia is available through the Family History Centers of the LDS Church. The film, which was copied from microfilm found in Leipzig, Germany, was originally made in 1941, during the German occupation of Slovenia. The quality of the film is uneven, but it is available to any researcher and can be ordered for a three-week period for \$3.00 a roll. A six-month loan costs \$4.25 a roll. An indefinite loan, which means that the microfilm will be kept at the local History Center permanently, costs \$6.25 a roll.

Searchers will find the microfilm under two headings in the computer listing of the library's holdings. One is Austria, Krain, and the name of the town in German; the other is Yugoslavia, Slovenia, and the name of the town in Slovenian. It is also found on microfiche under Yugoslavia, Slovenia. The entries were made before Slovenia's independence.

The church registers were frequently filmed with the left side done first, and then the right side. Content and format varies, especially in the early years, depending upon the record keeper. Handwriting can be a challenge. The earliest entries were written in Latin which was followed by German, including German script, and finally Slovenian. A knowledge of genealogical terms in these languages and a familiarity with surnames, German and Slovenian, soon over comes those problems.

Using the Crnomelj (Tschernembl) records as an example, the searcher will find the registers filmed in the left side-right side format. Some of the pages have double and triple exposures. The earliest records are births beginning in 1753, marriages in 1760, and deaths in 1758. House books listing the individuals in a household have also been filmed, but unfortunately, for only a few of the villages, beginning ca. 1793. The last entries were made in the middle of the 1800's. The house books for all the villages are available at the church archives in Ljubljana.

The microfilm for the neighboring town of Koprivnik (Nesselthal) is more easily read, although the same format is used and some pages are too light. Earliest records are from 1724 for marriages and deaths with a gap in these records from 1770 to 1795. Births begin in 1770. House books for all villages are also microfilmed although there are some gaps.

Records from Semic (Semitsch) begin with births in 1671, marriages and deaths from 1721. Missing years in the birth records are 1689 to 1705, and 1840 to 1854. There are no house books on film.

Births in 1662 begin the records for Ribnica (Reifnitz) with the years from 1736 to 1749 missing. Marriages and deaths begin in 1670 with the missing years for marriages being 1761 to 1784. Missing years for deaths are 1705 to 1731, 1766 to 1771, and 1774 to 1784.

The most complete microfilm records are those for Kocevje (Gottschee). Birth records begin in 1683, marriages and deaths in 1669, and there are family books from 1790 for all the villages. An index for birth and death records begins in 1800. The marriage index begins in 1788.

Of special interest are the proclamations, the publication of marriage bans. These entries are a genealogists delight because one finds the date and location of the betrothed's birth, name of parents including the mother's maiden name and notation if a parent is no longer living, marriage date, name and address of witnesses who are usually relatives. These records, which begin in the middle 1800's, are on microfilm for Crnomelj, Koprivnik, and Kocevje.

The records described here are those used in researching families from the Bela Krajina area. A search of the library's holdings as described above will reveal the availability of records for other areas of Slovenia.

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### **Volume 8 Issue 2 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society April 1, 1994**

We received the following Slovenian Archive address updates from Mary Murphy. The address of the main civil archive is: *Arhiv Slovenije, U1 Levstikov Trg. br. 3, Zvezdarska 1, 61001 Ljubljana, Slovenia*. The address of the national church archives is: *Nadskofijoki arhiv, Ciril Metodov trg 4, p.p. 121-111, 61001 Ljubljana, Slovenia*. Their telephone number is 061/328-895 or 061/310-673. The address of the regional church archive in the area around Vrhnica is: *Obcina Vrhnica, Maticna Urad, Trzaska 1, 61360 Vrhnica, Slovenia*. Note: We have a Slovenian/English letter writing guide available to help you correspond directly with these institutions.

The **Federation of East European Family History Societies** is holding their first annual convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on May 14-16, 1994. If you are interested in attending, contact Charles Hall, P.O. Box 21346, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84121. Telephone 801/278-4586. Also, the **Gottscheer Research and Genealogical Association** will hold their annual meeting and genealogy workshop in June 1994, in Salt Lake City.

Tivoli Enterprises, 6419 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44103, is under new management. A new mail order catalog will be available this spring. They carry a nice line of Slovenian books and tapes. **[NO LONGER IN BUSINESS.]**

Stephanie Spacek, 101 Daisy, Lansing, Kansas, 66043, is able to provide assistance to those interested in the **Strawberry Hill** area of Kansas City. Also, the *Strawberry Hill Ethnic Museum and Cultural Center, 720 North 4th Street, Kansas City, Kansas, 66101*, is open for visitors each weekend between noon and 5pm. There is an admission fee.

Ruth B. Krulce provided us with a photocopy of an interesting article on Slovenian that appeared in the 1982 issue of the magazine **Southwestern Pennsylvania**. Settlements covered included Granish Hill, Strabane, Bridgeville, Yukon, and Hermine. Ruth also donated a copy of a photograph of the *SNPJ Juvenile Circle, Strabane, Pennsylvania, 1925*.

We received a packet of information from Stan Polich including a photocopy of **Mountain Diggings, 1987**, which included a history of St. Joseph's Church in Leadville, Colorado. Stan also included a "ROD" or genealogical history of the Pavli, Pavlic, Polich, or Pavlick surname. Stan invested a significant amount of time, money, and effort into the compilation of the ROD, but he is willing to share the results.

A genealogical history of the Terselic family was donated to our Library by Richard Teselic.

Kathy Tepesh has provided us with a copy of the 1993 edition of the Slovene Business Directory. This directory is an excellent source of information about Slovenian businesses across the United States, and several foreign countries. To obtain a copy of the 1994 directory or to place an ad in future editions, write to: Kathy Tepesh, 110 East 84 Street, New York, New York, 10028.

Mr. Paul Laric gave our Library a copy of his book **Maribor Remembered**. The hard covered book, copyright 1989, is just the kind of book to complete on a wintry weekend. The plot is interesting but not contrived, and the Slovenian setting is ideal for conveying a sweet taste of the Old World atmosphere.

Many Slovenian surnames date back to the 10th century scripts (freisingen Monumental), but many were also adopted as late as the 18th century after an edict of Empress Maria Theresa on her Crownlands including Carinthia, Styria, Carniola, and the Littoral or Kuntenland. Today, Slovenian surnames maintain the same structure as other western European countries, and a name change requires official approval. For the size of the language group, Slovenian surnames are extremely

varied as to root and original meaning as well as the endings used. Dialect differences are not reflected in the spelling of surnames, but certain endings are typical of geographic areas so that an expert on names can often determine the origin of the bearer or of his ancestors from his surname alone. For instance, names ending in "ic" and "ec" are common in Carniola, and those ending in "ek" in Styria and Carinthia. Names ending in "ar" or without any suffix at all are found in all parts of Slovenia and elsewhere in what was recently known as Yugoslavia. *The above information was taken from a report on Slovenia prepared for use by the CIA.*

**QUERIES:** Queries are free to members. Be brief. We will edit as space dictates.

#### **Query 1: KRASOVIC/KRASOVECH**

Dorothy Erickson has a special interest in the Mayerling Tragedy ( 30 January 1889) and would like to share information with others. On this date, Rudolph Hapsburg and Mary Vetsera, his mistress, went to a hunting shack at Mayerling. A murder/suicide followed. When Rudolph's father, Emperor Franz Joseph heard of the event, he sent stable hands to contain the information. The body of Mary was sent to her parents. Money seems to have been used to insure that the parents and the stable hands that know of the tragedy were kept silent.

Rudolph was at the time married to Stephanie and there was a daughter, Elizabeth. There is a book on the tragedy, *Rudolph - Tragedy at Mayerling* by Count Carl Lanyay. The author's uncle, Prince Elmer Lanyay, was married to Rudolph's widow, Stephanie. Dorothy Erickson's grandfather, Johana **KRASEVIC**, was born 6 June 1865-66, in Austria. He apparently worked for Franz Joseph as a stableman until he left for the United States. He married Barbara **ZAVEC** on 14 January 1890, in Calumet, Michigan.

Dorothy is also looking for information on John Krasevic, born 19 May 1894, in Laiback, Austria. He arrived in the United States on the vessel, *LaLarrains*, on 15 October 1902, in New York. He lived in Sparta, Minnesota.

Joseph **KRASOVECH**, Aurora, Minnesota, was born 14 March 1886, in Boronity, Austria, and arrived in the United States on the vessel, *Mremen*, 2 May 1902. His wife was Mary. They had a son named Joseph, born 14 February 1915.

If you have any information on the Mayerling Tragedy, John Krasevic, or Joseph Krasovech, please write to Dorothy Erickson, RR 1 Box 1404, Trego, Wisconsin, 54888.

#### **SLOVENE PIONEER New World (Novi Svet)**

*The following is a continuation of our translation of a series of stories on Slovene Pioneers that appeared in the publication **New World (Novi Svet)***

Anton and Frances Korosec: Anton was born in the village Kot, near Velike Lasce, Lower Carniola (Dolenjska). He came to America in 1902. His wife, Frances, was born in the village Sodrazica, Lower Carniola. She came to America in 1904. They were married at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland. They had three sons and five daughters. Their residence is in Cleveland. Anton worked until 1914 in a factory, then he started a winery and is always stocked with the best wines. He is a founding member of **Novi Svet**. Many thanks!

Leopold Kuslan: Leopold Kushlan, single, his birthplace was Cerknica, Inner Carniola (Notranjska). He came here in 1910, but it was not his first trip. His parents, Joseph and Frances, brought him to the New World in 1891. They went to Brazil and stayed there until 1907. His parents died. Since 1922, he has been an attorney with the office in St. Clair Slovene National Home. He is a very respected citizen. Although he left his native land at a tender age, he has always been a proud Slovene, always willing to help. He, too, is a founder of **Novi Svet**.

Mathew and Frances Marolt: Matthew (nicknamed Kristof's boy) was born in the village of Bloskac Polica, near Loz, Inner Carniola (Notranjska) and came to America in 1905. His wife Frances, nee Erbeznic (nicknamed Anzeik's girl) was born in gornje Polje, Toplice, Lower Carniola. She came to America in 1907. They were married at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland. Four sons were born and one died. As a proud Slovene family, they helped at times when the publication **New World** was founded.

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### **Volume 8 Issue 3 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society July 1, 1994**

Our Library continues to grow at a modest pace. Mary Pavlic is contacting individuals to make donations of books, pictures, and other publications. Mary recently completed arrangements with a private donor to have several books donated to the Slovenian Women's Union at Joliet, Illinois. Keep us in mind if you are disposing of Slovenian books.

I recently purchased the paperback book ***Ships of Our Ancestors***. The book by Michael J. Anuta, includes over 900 photographs of ships, the very ships our ancestors traveled across the Atlantic on. Ship passenger listings are an extremely useful genealogical source for those of us of Slovenian ancestry. What a joy it is to see a picture of the actual ship that the passenger lists document. While this may not be a book that must be added to a personal genealogical library, it is one that every public and institutional library should have in its collection. Hopefully, Michael Anuta will have some time in the future to add a page or two of documentation to each picture.

Many Slovenian immigrants were drawn to sections of the United States where plentiful jobs awaited. Most times, the jobs were difficult and dangerous; none more so than coal mining. My grandparents ended their journey to a new life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Both my grandfather and his brother worked the hard coal mines. The coal mines are now closed, but there are many groups collecting the old mining records and maintaining a window into that bygone era. If you're in Northeastern Pennsylvania, visit the Carbondale historical Society and Museum (717/346-8370), the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, McDade Park in Scranton, and the Eckley Miner Village, RR 2, Weatherly, 717/636-2070). There is an actual deep mine to tour, and the Carbondale Historical Society has several files of employment records on miners who worked for local coal mining companies.

Mary Ann Anderson recently completed editing and entering onto a computer floppy disk our translation of the ***Silver Jubilee (1891-1916) Souvenir Book of St. Joseph's Church, Joliet, Illinois***. This book contains significant genealogical information, many names with dates, pictures, and some Slovenian hometowns.

Joe Drasler has donated a large number of pamphlets edited or prepared by Louis Adamic during and immediately after World War II. Joe has been a true friend to our Society for many years.

Mr. Frank Lencek is looking for an individual to translate family letters from Slovenia into English. Contact us if you are willing to help. Frank has a large collection of genealogical data on family groups in Unec and Domzale, Slovenia. He is willing to share the information with anyone interested.

The Eastern States Bureau of Land Management is automating its historical holdings of federal land titles and moving them to CD-ROM. Records from Alabama are now being completed. Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin will be next. Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida have already been completed. Land records are a little used source of genealogical information, but once records are automated, they'll become a source too accessible to ignore. For now, those interested in looking at these genealogically rich record holdings will have to visit the public service room of the Eastern States Bureau of Land Management Office. In time, it seems likely that CD-ROM discs of these records will be made available at all National Archive sites. Hopefully, the LDS Library will recognize the usefulness of these records.

***Italians to America*** is a planned 12- volume passenger list reference work edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Four volumes are already available. A full name index will accompany each volume. This series will likely be available at most public libraries with a significant genealogical collection. There is still a viable Slovenian community in Italy, and our members might find it useful to consult this series as it is completed. We'd love to hear from you if you find the volumes contain

information useful for the Slovenian genealogist.

Our Society is pleased to announce another board member, Rose Marie Jisa. Rose Marie will be working on Special Projects. One of her first activities will be editing our past newsletters into an indexed publication for release on our 10th anniversary. If you're interested in helping on this or any other special project, contact Rose Marie at 456 North Walnut Street, East Palestine, Ohio, 44413.

Slovenia was a crownland of the Austria-Hungarian Monarchy for many years, although the largest population of Slovenians was encompassed by the area of land that is now called the independent nation of Slovenia, there are still small populations of Slovenians in Austria and Italy. Slovenian church records are well maintained and readily accessible in Slovenia. It appears to be somewhat more difficult locating Slovenian records in Austria.

Archives of Catholic Archbishopsrics are located at:

Erzbistum Wien  
Diozesanarchiv  
Wollzeile w  
A-1010 Wien, Austria

Erzbeischöfliches  
Konsistorialarchiv  
Kapitelplatz 2  
A-5010 Salzburg, Austria

Diocesan archives are located in Graz (Styria) and Klagenfurt (Carinthia).

One of the greatest collections of Austrian records are the national military records that span the entire empires history. Many of these records have been microfilmed by the LDS, but the original records are maintained at the:

Oesterreichisches Staatsarchiv  
Kreeigsarchiv  
Nottenndorfergasse 2  
A-1030 Wien, Austria.

Since there is no general everyname index to these valuable military records, they are very difficult to search. A key to their use is knowledge of the Austrian regiments that recruited in given areas of Slovenia. We'd love to hear from anyone who knows this information.

Also one of our members is trying to purchase a copy of *Slovenians from the Earliest Times* by Drga Gelt. The work was published in Victoria, Australia. Are there any suggestions on how to obtain a copy?

## HISTORIC SLOVENE LANDS

*By: Edward Skender*

With this article, we begin a series about the history of Slovenia. Slovenia did not exist as a unified land until 1918: prior to that time, it was incorporated into the Austrian part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When Austria was dismembered, modern Slovenia was formed from all or part of the following former Austrian provinces: (a) all of Carniola [Krain/Kranjska], including the capital Ljubljana [Laibach]; (b) the northern part of the Istrian Peninsula, which the Austrians had called Kustenland; (c) the southern part of the County of Trieste [Trst] around the area of Portoroz; (d) Lower Styria between Maribor [Marburg] and Cilli; and (e) a piece of Hungary in the northeast corner formerly called Lendau and now called Prekmurje.

Former Austrian lands outside of Slovenia where Slovenes lived include (a) Trieste [Trst]; (b) Gorizia [Gorica]; (c) Venetian Slovenia [Beneska Slovenija]; (d) the Canale Valley [Kanalska dolina]--all of which are now just over the border with Italy; and (e) some villages in the southern edge of Austrian

Carinthia [Karnten/Koroska] just over the northern border of Slovenia. For the most part, however, almost all historic Slovene lands are now part of Slovenia. Each however, has its own history. The history is not only interesting, but also important to the genealogist, since the administration of civil authority (records, etc.) and church parishes (baptisms, marriages) in each of these districts often hold the key to locating ancient family documents in the centuries before the creation of Slovenia as a political entity.

The territory of Slovenia has an extraordinary history. Its southern border along the Kulpa River and northeast toward the modern Austrian and Hungarian border has been largely unchanged as a border since the year 800 AD. The border and territory of Slovenia served as the southern frontier for Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire, which lasted from 800 until 1806.

In the next edition, we will outline some of the key historical facts about Slovenia from the earliest times to the present. We will focus on each of the parts of the country, with key historical information usable to Slovene genealogist.

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#### **Volume 8 Issue 4 Newsletter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society October 1, 1994**

More and more of our members are making use of computer equipment to help archive, sort, organize, and publish the information they've gathered. Of course, computers and computer equipment seem to become obsolete as quickly as you get the information put into a data file. What do you do if hardware you're using suddenly develops a problem and parts don't seem to be available from any of the retail outlets nearby? One solution is to check surplus stores that specialize in computers. One such place is Weird Stuff Warehouse (408/746-1100). Maybe there's such a place that deals with the transfer of floppies and the data on them, specifically those with a format other than DOS. If you know, write. I'll share the information in an upcoming newsletter.

Speaking of computers and computer usage for genealogical application, we recently purchased a book by Donna Przecha and Joan Lowerey, **Guide to Genealogy Software**. The book reviews 155 programs, including most of the popular software generally available through software and genealogical publications as well as many that can be purchased as shareware. There are good writeups on Personal Ancestral File (PAF), the software made available by LDS and Roots III and many others. In addition, there is an excellent section on Utilities, programs available to supplement the use of the primary genealogical programs.

Another section of the book deals with other programs that might be of interest to a genealogist. One program available deals with preparing indexes to either books being written or those already in print. Since our Society prepares many everyname indices for old Slovenian texts, we will be considering one of these programs ourselves. Finally, the book contains an excellent essay on GEDCOM, that portion of genealogical programs that provides working format and other protocol so data files and other text can be transmitted via modem, that is shared with others. Our Society has subscribed to **Genealogical Computing**. We'll have more information on genealogy and computer use in future newsletters.

Dr. Nancy Burnett, our Society director in charge of translating, is now actively seeking additional translators for future projects. We have several books ready to be translated. If you're able to help, please contact us. Nancy is the author of **Slovenes in Rural Appalachia: An Oral History**. The text is a historical and genealogical source for those with an interest in the Slovene Community of West Virginia. It can be purchased for \$12.00 per copy from: **The News Leader**, Box 591, Richwood, West Virginia, 26261.

Mike Vidmar has donated several books and a package of newspaper articles on Slovenians. Included are: **The History of the American Slovenian Catholic Union, 1894 to 1994**; **American**

**Slovenian Catholic Union, 33rd National Convention, August 6th - 9th, 1994; Baraga Days 1990, September 1-2, 1990, Chicago, Illinois; and Spomini Na Zlato Maso, P. Fortunat Zorman, OFM, Posvecebja 1940, Zlata Masa 1990.**

Mary Ann Murphy donated a copy of *Pot Slovenskih Izseljencev Na Tuje, Od Ljubljane do Ellis Isalnda, 1880-1924*, by Marjan Drnovsek. Josephine Turkman is now in the process of preparing a translation from Slovenian to English.

Herman Preseren recently visited Slovenia, and he mailed us a copy of the 1993 Slovenian Telephone Book. He also provided us with the name of a bookstore in Slovenia. Cankarjeva Založba, Trubarjev Antikvariat, Mestni Trg 25, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Another bookstore in Slovenia is Knjigarna Bookshop, D.O.O. Slovenska C 29, Trgovina, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

I received a photograph from my aunt, Josephine Grum. The picture is from the early 1900's and shows a husband and wife. The man is dressed in an Austrian Army uniform, made of a heavy, wool-like cloth, complete with leg wrappings and several medals on the chest. On the rear of the picture was the name, Franc Kunc, Fotograficini Atelie, Wolfove ul 6, Ljubljana, Slovenia. I'll write to that address hoping to find someone still doing photography there. If you've had luck tracking down old photography studios, let us know the results.

We're still looking for an expert on the Austrian Army and its units that recruited from the area of Slovenia at the turn of the century. Write if you can help.

The Genealogical Indexing Association, P.O. Box 102, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84087, offers a wealth of information to genealogists, much available via microfiche and obtainable through local libraries.

1994 has been a watershed year for our Society. Our membership is rising slowly, and we were able to add several individuals to our board of directors. We have become a member organization of the Federation of East European Family History Societies, and we are establishing a rather close relationship with the Slovenian National Art Guild of Cleveland and the Slovenian Women's Union Heritage Center, In Joliet, Illinois. I am enclosing a second paper with this newsletter outlining the projects of our new directors, detailing our commitment to collecting additional books, publications, and photographs and translating those publications that will lead to a better understanding of our Slovenian ancestors.

We have made the decision to increase our yearly dues to \$10.00. The cost of photocopying the newsletter, purchasing envelopes and postage stamps, and the postage necessary to mail publications to translators, etc., have led to this decision. In addition, we believe that window of opportunity for collecting books, newspapers, and other publications is not wide. The older population of Slovenian speakers is passing daily, and we must make a concerted effort in the next ten years to ask for donations of their Slovenian libraries. We may have to advertise to facilitate this effort.

Finally there is now a rather significant number of historical texts, books, and magazines, now being published in Slovenia outlining the out migration from Slovenia. These texts are expensive but some should be made available to our members. Indeed, most will have to be translated into English. We ask your opinion of our decisions. We desire your volunteer efforts, and we plead that you actively seek donations of books, publications, and photographs from your friends and relatives.

## **HISTORIC PEOPLES OF SLOVENIA**

*By: Edward Skender*

In the last edition, we defined the Historic Slovene lands and noted the modern Slovenia was formed after World War I from former Austrian provinces. The Slovenes came to Slovenia during the historic period of the Great European Tribal Migrations, sometime around the turn of the 6th Century. Then, the Roman Empire was in decline and many European tribes -- Franks, Bavarians, Saxons, Goths, Vandals, Wends, and Slavs began to migrate westward in large numbers from their homelands in northeastern Europe.

Long before the Tribal Migrations however, the Slovene lands were inhabited by Celtic peoples, a people who once inhabited most of Central Europe. Julius Caesar fought the Celts in Switzerland and France (Gaul) as Rome expanded. The Celts in Slovenia were the Illyrian Celts who inhabited the area

from Slovenia to Albania. Some suggest that today's Albanians are the last remaining Illyrian Celts in Europe, the rest having been assimilated as other peoples entered the area south of the Alps.

The Romans entered Slovenia soon after the establishment of their border colony at Aquileia (near Udine) about the year 181 BC. For the next 200 years, Aquileia was a base for Roman conquest in the Alps and to the east and northeast. A large Roman colony was established at Aemona (Ljubljana). Aemona was a strategic town on the Via Julia Augusta, the main Roman road to the northeast of the Empire. About the time of the birth of Christ, a political reorganization occurred in the Roman Empire and the Emperor Augustus established the large Roman provinces of Noricum and Pannonia. Noricum initially included what is now the western part of Slovenia (Kranjska/Carniola). Pannonia included eastern Slovenia (Stajerska/Styria).

Important Roman forts and colonies were also established at Gorica, Kostel, Cilli, and Maribor. Since most of the Romans came without wives, they intermarried with the native Celtic population. Rome retained control of the Slovene lands from about 100 BC. to until the year 410 AD. when the Germanic Goths arrived during the early period of the Tribal Migrations. In the next edition, we will discuss the coming of the Goths and especially their successor invaders, the Wends and the Slovani, the ancestors of the modern Slovenes.

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