

FAMILY FINDER "Quick Notes"

Dedicated to Helping English-Speaking Family
Historians in Europe Help Each Other



President: Lucille John
Lucillejohn@web.de
V. President: Tom Prost
Prost@pjsnet.com
Secretary: Ruth Weiershaeuser
weiershaeuser@t-online.de
Editor: S. L. Perry
SLPERRY@5971@aol.com
Database Manager: Alan Reed
thefinder47@yahoo.com

Our Web Site is: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~eurgaesr/>

Volume 21, Number 4 ISSN 1040-4821

April 2007

Events



First Day of Spring
Rome-Sentinel NY newspaper
March 30, 1940.

Please reserve the
following
dates on your calendar.

All meetings are held at
6 PM at the Makedonia
Restaurant, Heidelberg,
unless otherwise noted.

26 April Program and Presenter

Members will have the spotlight in discussing
their current reach efforts, findings and issues.

24 May Program and Presenter

Again, unless we schedule a presenter, we will
continue the program format as in April.

28 June Program and Presenter

It is expected that we will continue to discuss
members' current research and findings.

Bratvold Attic Finds

Presentation By President Lucille John

Members of GAESRE in attendance at the 22
February 2007 meeting were fascinated by Lucille's
presentation as she led us virtually *through her family's
attic*, allowing us to examine items found there, which
made tangible her descriptions of important events in the
history of the Bratvold family.

Lucille explained that the items we examined were
among a larger cache of heirlooms saved by Bratvold
family members, who were clearing the attic where the
items were stored over the years. Among the heirlooms
precious to Lucille, family historian, were: *old letters*,
photographs including *post card photos of ancestors*. *War
medals*, her *grandmother's obituary*, *maps* showing the
location of residences, and her grandfather's *ribbons*
certifying his membership in the Carpenters Union and the
Scandinavian Relief Association, and her father's and

aunt's *school report cards*. The membership ribbon &
medal showed the full name of the labor organization as
Local Union 1176 U.B.of C. and J.of A. (United Brotherhood
of Carpenters and Joiners of America) in Fargo, North Dakota.

*Some of the letters and post cards were written in
Norwegian*. Lucille's grandfather owned a Norwegian-
English Pocket Dictionary which aided him in reading this
correspondence. We were able to examine this dictionary
and imagine how it was useful to him.

Another interesting item circulated among us was
her father's "*Carpenter's Work Log*" which showed his
income from specific jobs and who employed him. We
also perused the *wedding announcement* for her
grandparents. Lucille found her *grandfather's death
certificate* which clarified his cause of death. She said that
this information can give indication of a descendant's
health risk.

Lucille observed that her great-great grandfather
was a public official in Norway, and that her grandfather
lived on a Fjord north of Oslo. An uncle worked as a black
smith around the time family members immigrated to the
USA. This skilled craft was considered a way to make a
prosperous living at the time.

It was particularly interesting to hear Lucille's
account of her 2 great uncles who fought in World War I
for the US Army. Louis was a member of the "Spruce
Production (Unit)" of the War Department that harvested
wood for construction of Army airplanes flown by our
fighter pilots in France. The US Air Force was not yet
established. Tom was healthier and so saw duty in France
at the end of WW I. We learned that these two brothers
filed a land claim around 1915 to 1917 in Malta, Montana.

Another *Bratvold Attic Find* was an original copy
of the *Ashby Tribune*, of Ashby (Grant County) Minnesota,
which carried the *obituary* of Mrs. Lise M. Bratvold, born 1
May 1846. The obituary reported that she died at age 78.
Local news items in the same paper mentioned relatives
who attended the funeral and their relationship, thus
clarifying the relationship of persons in some photos.

We thank Lucille for sharing this tour of the
Bratvold Attic. Vice President and Program Chair, Tom
Prost spoke for the members present, when he said
*"we have never before had so much fun
rummaging through someone else's attic with them."*

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 2007

The President called the meeting to order at 1905, with 8 members and 3 guests in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting (22 Feb 07) were read and approved.

Old Business: Mike Donohue announced that the audit had been completed, and that the end of February amount on hand was \$4687.87. Since there were no problems with the audit, it was approved.

New Business:

1. The NGA conference at Richmond was brought up, with the possibility of the group's sponsoring a member's attendance by payment of the registration fee. There were no volunteers.
2. Sandy Perry expressed regret at the lateness of the newsletter, explaining the family problems experienced by Kris Richardson.

The meeting was adjourned at 1920. Tom Prost presented a program on his search for the Ventura family in Italy. The next meeting will be held on 26n April 2007 at the Makedonia.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Weiershaeuser, Secretary

Genealogical Association of
English-Speaking Researchers in
Europe
CMR 420, Box 142
APO AE 09063

PO

Do you want to receive
Family Finder via eMail?
UPDATE YOUR e-MAIL ADDRESS!