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# NEWSLETTER

## KFEIRIAN REUNION FOUNDATION

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Volume 1, Number 1

January 1, 1990

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### JIM ABOUREZK PUBLISHES MEMOIRS

James G. Abourezk, former U.S. Senator (1971-1979) from South Dakota, and National Chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), has published Advise & Dissent: Memoirs of South Dakota and the U.S. Senate.

The book is the personal odyssey of Jim Abourezk's coming of age in South Dakota through his voluntary departure from the United States Senate. He covers his life starting with the hardscrabble days as a farmhand, bartender, bouncer, and cook.

In the U.S. Senate, Abourezk championed Indian self-determination, demanded the creation of a Palestinian state, challenged the flow of special interest money through PACs, and tried to overthrow the structure that keeps small farmers in an economic strangle hold.

In the forward to the book, Jim Hightower, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, states "maybe we can learn something if we read the personal story of a politician who has always been dedicated to the high principle that this country belongs to its people and not just to the rich and powerful."

Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma is quoted as saying this about Abourezk:

If I'm reincarnated I'd like to come back as Jim Abourezk. There I was, up there on that Hill, trying to be nice to everyone for five years, and the sixth year I realized it didn't make a damn bit of difference. All you do is become a member of the establishment and you still don't get all that much accomplished. Abourezk figured that out the first two weeks he was up there.

The book was published by Lawrence Hill Books of Chicago in 1989, and sells at \$18.95. Autographed copies are available from ADC at \$21 postage paid.

### An Editorial

### **FIRST NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED; MEMBERSHIP HELP NEEDED**

The first edition of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation (KRF) Newsletter is now a reality.

Our first task in preparing for a newsletter is to make the mailing list as accurate as possible. Thanks to the help of 30 co-editors, the KRF now has the most accurate directory in years.

Armed with the alphabetically arranged directory in this issue, you are now better equipped to communicate with cousins and friends. You may be surprised that a favorite Kfeirian cousin is living near by.

We know that some of you can attend only an occasional reunion, but all of you are interested in hearing news of Kfeirians where ever they may be.

But we need your help in gathering news and keeping the directory up-to-date. There are errors in addresses, telephone numbers, and in the spelling of names. Many names are missing. Check your own name for accuracy, and compare the directory with your address book, to make sure every one is listed who should be listed.

Notice that we have a listing of more than 150 "Lost Kfeirians". They are "lost" because the post office did not have a forwarding address on file during our last mailing.

We need your help in finding all Kfeirians who should be in the directory but are not. Forward corrections and additions to your state, province, or city co-editor, or to the editor-in-chief.

If, through marriage, your Arabic last name is lost, please identify your family patriarch or matriarch. If you are not a Kfeirian, we will continue to list you in the directory but will identify you as a "Friend of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation."

Don't forget that the Newsletter's main task is to report news. So please use the form in this issue to report your news.

Your comments on ways to improve the directory and the Newsletter are welcome.

Abc. J. Bassett

## ***THE PRESIDENT'S BOX: On Being A Kfeirian***

If you've been to a Kfeirian Reunion you know that family, fellowship, and fun-filled festivities are the highlights.

The fun begins before you get to your room with the luggage. There are always lots of folks in the lobby chatting with friends, relatives, and new acquaintances. If you've never been to a reunion, tell this to the person registering you. The odds are good that you'll make instant friends and even meet some long lost relatives before you're through the line. Of course, when you're Lebanese, particularly Kfeirian, everyone becomes your cousin!

The fun and fellowship are outstanding and are the obvious reasons for attending the reunion. However, for many, the reasons are ingrained in heritage, in a culture we hold dear. Whether young or old, the reunion festivities reminds us of who we are and where we come from.

For me, it has instilled a pride and confidence that helps in my daily living and is a reminder of the country my family left behind so many years ago. I am not only reminded of my roots, but of the courage and confidence my grandparents, and so many other parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, must have had to challenge this new, free land called America. Because of their courage we live freely on soil that is not inundated with wars and religious fighting, and we are able to pray for those who do.

Yes, I am proud to be an American, but I am equally proud to have a Lebanese heritage. We are a principled people who understand the difference between right and wrong, who rely on God to help us make life's difficult choices. I believe the people I meet at our reunions truly help to make the world a better place in which to live.

I am proud of our Kfeirian Reunion and all those who support it. We have our differences and say what is on our minds, but we are one people, who for one brief weekend in September, come together, to dance, to sing, to play the bongos.... To discuss and argue at our business meetings.... To clap our hands and eat good food.... But, mostly, mostly, to be reminded that we are Lebanese-Americans, that we have a grand and wonderful heritage and we want to

pass this on to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

-Karen Cantees Stagg

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### ***57th Kfeirian Reunion Financial Statement*** (Abbreviated Report)

#### **Receipts**

Deposit from KRF	1,000.00
Registrations (322)	13,026.00
Contributions	50.00
Card Party	85.00
Souvenirs	27.50

**Total Receipts** **\$14,188.50**

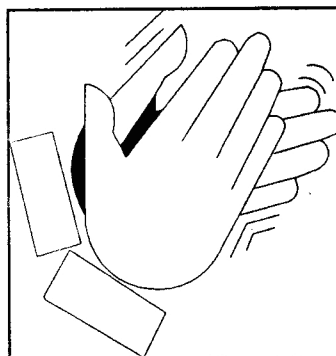
#### **Disbursements**

Hotel Meeting Expenses	\$51.40
Postage	581.75
Stationery	439.40
Tickets/Program Printing	359.76
Arabic entertainment	1,700.00
Belly Dancer	100.00
Clown	100.00
Prizes	218.00
Reunion ribbons	221.46
Flowers	56.85
Hotel	9,339.28
KRF Deposit Return	1,000.00

**Total Disbursements** **\$14,165.90**

**Reunion Net Profit** **\$22.60**

**Scholarship Contributions** **\$1,080.00**



## KRF OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The new Kfeirian Reunion Foundation officers and board of directors have been elected for 1989-1990. Karen Cantees Stagg was re-elected President, Kathy Thacker, Vice-President, and Jane Eubanks, Treasurer, during the Annual Business Meeting. Selma Bassett Edinger continues as Secretary. New board members elected for three year terms are Paul McCoy, George Hanna, and Abe Bassett.

Let the Board know of your thoughts and feelings about the Kfeirian Reunion. They are anxious to hear from you about any topic on your mind. Their addresses will be found in the directory; individual telephone numbers are listed.

### *President*

Karyn Cantees Stagg St. Albans, WV  
(304) 727 6757

### *Vice President*

Kathy B. Thacker Morehead, KY  
(606) 784 4071

### *Secretary*

Selma Bassett Edinger Columbus, OH  
(614) 899 8374

### *Treasurer*

Jane Eubanks Huntington, WV  
(304) 522 2644

### *Board Members*

Abe J. Bassett Ft. Wayne, IN  
(219) 486 1333

Mark George Huntington, WV  
(304) 525 0833

George Hanna Huntington, WV  
(304) 523 8814

Larry Jamra Toledo, OH  
(419) 537 0511

Nellie Kawaja Williamson, WV  
(304) 235 3616

Paul H. McCoy Williamson, WV  
(304) 237 1031

Mitchell Mickel S. Charleston, WV  
(304) 744 0631

Alan Stagg St. Albans, WV  
(304) 727 6757

## NEWSLETTER A GOOD NEWS-BAD NEWS STORY

First, the bad news: The cost of this first issue of Newsletter of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation is over \$550 for printing and postage alone.

And that doesn't count the out-of-pocket investment the editors have made in postage and long distance telephone and travel charges as they gather news and addresses.

The good news: the cost of the newsletter is not coming from the treasury of the Kfeirian Foundation. It is being borne entirely through private donations. At the time of the printing, there are two donors.

Won't you become a Kfeirian Reunion Foundation Newsletter sponsor? The first year's budget can be met with only forty-four individual \$25 sponsorships, or eleven \$100 business sponsorships.

Your sponsorship will be acknowledged in the next newsletter. If donations are generous, the quality of the newsletter will be improved.

Your voluntary contribution will be greatly appreciated. Look for the contribution form, on a colored sheet of paper, elsewhere in this issue.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO COLLEGE KFEIRIANS

Five college students have been awarded scholarships at the 57th Kfeirian Reunion held in Columbus in September. Each of the five scholarships is valued at \$600. Award winners for the 1989-1990 academic year are:

Clay Scott, a student of Arabic, at the University of California at Berkeley. Clay is the son of Lorraine Bassett Scott of Palo Alto.

Lisa Harris, a pre-med student at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Lisa is the daughter of Norma McCarus Harris of Ann Arbor.

Rebecca (Becki) F. Thabet, daughter of John Thabet of San Antonio, the University of Texas at Austin. Becki is Newsletter co-editor for Texas.

Michele George a student at Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, Virginia. (See News Briefs.)

Tony A. Saad, a freshman accounting student at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

It has been the custom to offer six scholarships annually. Kfeirians are invited to secure applications for the 1990-1991 academic year from Mitchell M. Mickel, 2913 Macon Street, South Charleston, WV 25303.

## DEATHS

**Katherine Hodge**, mother of Regina Gwodz, passed away December 3, 1989, in Toledo.

**Sam Joseph** of Huntington passed away June 8, 1989.

**Page Kerbaway**, of Pinellas Park, Florida, passed away in September, 1989, in Florida. Page attended the Columbus Reunion.

**Helen Kourey**, wife of Solomon Kourey, of Petersburg, VA, passed away in the fall of 1989. Sol is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kourey of Charleston.

**Asaff Rahall**, of Beckley, passed away August 9, 1989, following a long illness. Asaff, son of the late George and Sadie Thabet Rahall, was born in 1894. He emigrated to the United States in 1910, coming to Welch, WV, where an uncle lived. Survivors include his wife, Jamelia Thabet Rahall; two sons, George A. Rahall of Pittsburgh, and Louis A. Rahall of Fayetteville; two daughters, Alice Rahall of Beckley and Deloris Hawarny of Sterling Heights, MI; 125 grandchildren, and 29 great grandchildren.

According to an article in the Beckley Register-Herald, Asaff and 35 other Lebanese who emigrated with him were turned away at Ellis Island. All 36 lived in a tiny hotel room in the Virgin Islands while they waited to enter the United States. After five years as a peddler, he settled in Beckley and with two partners opened the town's first dime store.

## BIRTHS

**Mr. and Mrs. Brian C. Christian** (Charleston, WV) are the parents of a son, Brian Allen, born February 26, 1989. Their daughter is 3 years old.

**Mr. and Mrs. Clay Christian** (Silver

Springs, Md.) had their first daughter, Helen Rose, on March 15, 1989. The infant was named after both grandmothers: Rose Thabet Christian and Helen Skowronski. Brian and Clay are grandsons of Toufic Thabet of South Charleston, WV.

**Valerie Bassett Cundiff** (W. Carrollton, OH), granddaughter of the late Abraham and Rahija Saad Bassett, is expecting her first child, a son, in March, 1990.

**George and Terry Lynn (Lowen) Issac** (Upland, CA) are the parents of a son, George Issac, Jr., born in July, 1989. George is the grandson of Farris Lowen of Upland, and Terri Lynn is the granddaughter of Tennel Lowen of Charleston.

**Steven Amiel and Donna Michael** are parents to a son, Steven Amiel Michael, born May 16, 1989. A daughter, Cristin Rita, is two and one-half. Steve is the son of Amiel and Julia Michael of Charleston, WV.

**Jan Rutherford Bush**, (Juneau, Alaska) gave birth December 11, 1989, to her second child, Isabel Frances Bush. Jan and her husband Jeff are both Alaska Assistant Attorney Generals. Their other child is Megan Rahija, 3 years old, named after her maternal great grandmother, the late Rahija Saad Bassett.

**Martha de la Soujeole** gave birth to her fourth child, Luc, October, 1989. Martha, granddaughter of the late Abraham and Rahija Saad Bassett, is married to Axel.

**Lauren Stagner** (Huntsville, TX), granddaughter of Jim Monsour Thabet, is expecting her first child, in December, 1989.

**Kathy Thacker** (Morehead, KY) granddaughter of Abe Kawaja, has a

new daughter, Falon Nicole.

## MARRIAGES &amp; ENGAGEMENTS

**Michael T. Lowen, Jr.** (Upland, California) son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Lowen, Sr. of Charleston, was married on November 26, 1989, to Shani Solomon. They will live in Rancho Cucamongo, California.

**Victoria Lowen** was married to Gregory Woodman, October 28, 1989, in Upland, CA. She is the daughter of Francis Lowen and the granddaughter of Tennel Lowen of South Charleston, WV.

**Mary Thabet Husson** (Dearborn, MI), eldest daughter of Jim Mansour Thabet, married Donald Husson in April, 1989. In January, Mary was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserve.

**Diana A. Joseph** (Mauldin, SC) was married on November 11, 1989, to Chris Asmus, in Greenville, SC. Diana is the daughter of Naime Joseph and the late Sam Joseph of Huntington. The bride was escorted by her brother, John Joseph. Maid of honor was Dr. Sandra Joseph, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids included Kristine Joseph, Nahela Kobrossy, and Rebecca Saad, cousins of the bride. The flower girl was Kristina Saad and ring bearer was Abraham Saad.

Diana graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and from Marshall University with a master of arts degree in higher education administration. She is employed with the Greenville Technical College. The groom graduated from the Citadel with a degree in business administration. He is employed with Advance Business Systems in Greenville, SC.

**David Michel and Dottie Kappert**, both of Baltimore, Maryland, are engaged.

## EDUCATION

**Angela Bullock** (Frankford, KY), granddaughter of Charles and Edna Tweel attended a three-week long Governor's School for the Arts program in Louisville.

**Jay Ellen Brown** (Charleston, WV) graduated from West Liberty State College, December 16, 1989. She will be employed as a Dental Hygenist in Charleston. Her husband Ray is the grandson of Philip and Mae Michael.

**Shelly Carder** (Huntington, WV), grandson of Jim and Sally Tweel, has entered Auburn University.

**Jim Donley** (Grosse Pointe Woods, MI) is working on his thesis to complete a Master's degree in business, to go with his bachelor's degree in computer science. Jim, one of the Newsletter Co-Editors, works for the Chrysler Corporation.

**Michele George** (Huntington), daughter of Mike George and Joycelyn George, a junior at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, is participating in a study-abroad program at the University of Reading, England. As a freshman, Michele received a Staker scholarship at the Lynchburg, Virginia, school.

**Assaf Abou Rahal** (Toledo, OH) has been accepted to the University of Toledo to study civil engineering. He arrived in the United States in 1989.

**Leilah Sadd**, (Encino, CA.) is a freshman at San Diego State University. Leilah is the daughter of Adeeb Sadd and Carolyn Thabet, and granddaughter of Toufic Thabet of South Charleston, WV.

## HONORS

**George Hanna** (Huntington) was honored in November by his employer, General Foods Corporation. George received the "President's Award" for

superior customer satisfaction. He was cited for outstanding work in the Food Service Industry, convenient store segment, in selling Maxwell House Coffee, delivering merchandising programs, working with his retail counterparts in making Maxwell House coffee well known in the West Virginia market.

**Paul H. McCoy** (South Williamson, KY), husband of Jeanette Cantees, and long-time Kfeirian Reunion Foundation trustee, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Belfry High School. Paul starred in football and basketball for three years, and was the first Belfry student to attend the University of Kentucky on a football scholarship.

**Lorraine Bassett Scott** (Palo Alto, CA), an elementary school principal in San Carlos, led her school to a State of California Distinguished School Award, in 1988-1989.

**Mitchell Mickel** (South Charleston, WV), recent Treasurer of the Kfeirian Reunion Foundation, has been elected West Virginia state president of the National Association of Federal Retirees.

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

**Douglas Bassett** (New York, NY), son of Abe and Sharon Bassett, is a professional fashion photographer in Milano, Italy.

**Nicholas Lowen** (Bridgeport, WV), son of Mr. and Mrs. Tennel Lowen of Charleston, has been promoted to Division Manager with Philip Morris, USA. He will manage northern West Virginia.

**Ralph Noble McCarron** (Van Nuys, CA) is the new Chief Financial Officer of Northrop International Aircraft, Inc. in Hawthorne, CA. Ralph is married to Naomi Thabet McCarron who is the daughter of Toufic Thabet of South

Charleston, WV.

**Hanna Michael** (Dedham, MA) arrived from Beirut in November, 1988, and is working as an architect in Stoneham, MA.

**Sherry Michel Parrish** (Baltimore) has been promoted to Corporate Director of Clinical Operations for Wyman Park Medical Associates of the John Hopkins Health System.

**Paul Saad, Jr.** (Tampa, FL) is president of First Tampa Securities Group, Inc. He is the author of Technimentals, a monthly investment newsletter, and appears on his own radio show, Tampa Bay Business and Investment Report on WEND, Tampa. Paul is the grandson of the late Jasper Saad of Pikeville, KY.

**Randy Michael** (Charleston) is completing renovation of his restaurant and lounge club at Elk River Town Center Inn in Charleston. Kfeirians are invited for a complimentary drink. Randy is the grandson of George Michael.

## RETIREMENTS

**Mary Lou Bokair and Ellen K. Bokair** (Huntington) have retired. Mary Lou taught in the Cabell County school district, and Ellen completed her career with CSX system. Both Ellen and Mary Lou are doing a lot of traveling, and enjoying life.

## CHURCH

**Paul Abourezk** (Pleasanton, CA), son of James Abourezk, serves on the parish council of the Orthodox Church of the Redeemer-Antiochian Archdiocese in Los Altos, California.

**Adeeb George Sadd** (Encino, CA.) is serving his second term as Chairman of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese

of North America. Adeeb, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, is the son of the late George Sadd and Mrs. Naheel Sadd of Reseda, CA.

#### GENERAL NEWS

**Makram Hajj, M.D.** (Baltimore, MD) is a senior medical resident at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

**Elizabeth Thabet**, (Van Nuys, CA.) is a debutante in the St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral Sweetheart Debutant Ball to be held in February, 1990. Elizabeth is the daughter of Edward Thabet, and granddaughter of Toufic Thabet of South Charleston.

**Jim Mansour Thabet** (San Antonio, TX), recently celebrated his 93rd birthday. He resides in a nursing home.

**Jo Ann Thabet** (San Antonio, TX) works as a registered nurse, but is very active in the Libertarian Party. She ran for election as a state representative in Texas in 1988, but was not elected. She has been a delegate to the last three national conventions.

**The Palmerian Society**, in Huntington, WV, the majority of whom are Kfeirian, are planning to re-organize.

### 1989 COLUMBUS REUNION A SUCCESS

The 1989 Kfeirian Reunion held in Columbus, Ohio, on September 2-4, attracted 203 people.

The registrants represented 10 states, including Kfeirians from as far away as California, Florida, Texas, and Canada. West Virginians made up 42% those registered, Ohioans 21%, followed closely by Kfeirians from Michigan and Kentucky, each with 10%. Saturday and Sunday evening's dinners and haflis were attended by members of the Columbus American Syrian Lebanese Club. Entertainment was provided by the Touch of Lebanon Band of Cleveland, and the belly dancer was "Conchi" of Cincinnati.

Teri Willoughby, co-chair of the Columbus Reunion, reported total receipts of \$14,188.50 for a net profit of \$22,60, exclusive of scholarship donations.

\$1,080 was contributed to the Kfeirian Scholarship Fund.

Dewey and Hope Bassett of Dayton, Ohio, were the winners of the pre-registration drawing and received their entire reunion weekend free of charge.

Six college students received \$600 scholarships (see article in this issue), and a spirited business meeting spawned development of the KRF Newsletter.

### DIRECTORS AT WORK

The KRF Board is developing a Reunion Planning Manual, according to Alan Stagg, board member.

The purpose of the manual will be to help each year's organizing committee plan the festivities in a more expeditious manner.

In other business, the board designated Charleston as the next reunion host city. At the present time, the reunion site has not been determined. An annual regatta held on Labor Day weekend makes Charleston hotel facilities unavailable. The spring edition of the KRF Newsletter will carry details of the 58th Reunion.

### Joe Sabah: Jobs Consultant Publishes Second Book

*How To Get The Job You Really Wanted, and Get Employers to Call You* is the title of a self-help book authored by Joseph and Judy Sabah of Denver, Colorado. More than 14,000 copies of the book have been sold.

Joe, formerly of Steubenville, Ohio, and his wife Judy, are owners of The Sabah Company, are engaged in speaking, writing, and consulting on the topic of getting jobs.

Because Joe has been heard on 385 radio talk shows, he has just published a second book, *How To Get On Radio Talk Shows, Without Leaving Your Office or Home*.

Joe and Judy are the parents of 7 children, and have 7½ grand-children. Joe's mother, Anna Sabah, 88, lives in Ashville, North Carolina.

### THIRTY-TWO EDITORS AT WORK; MORE NEEDED

Thirty-two Kfeirians have volunteered to work on the KRF Newsletter as co-editors for their cities, areas, states, or provinces.

The co-editor's responsibility is to gather news and help make the directory more accurate. Their names and telephone numbers are listed on the back outside cover.

We have not as yet identified co-editors for Virginia, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Brazil, New York, or South Dakota. Additional help is needed in Southern California. In fact, if your area is not covered, won't you volunteer your help.

Report your news and address corrections or news to your co-editor, or write directly to the Editor-in-Chief, Abe J. Bassett, 5717 Port Royal, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815.

On one of the colored sheets of this edition of the newsletter, you will find a form for reporting news and directory changes.

**GENEALOGY**

***Rahija Saad was Not a Polygamist According to the National Archives***

My mother, Rahija Saad, was neither an anarchist nor a polygamist when the S. S. La Lorraine docked at Ellis Island on Thursday, July 15th, 1911.

As a 18-year old immigrant who was unable to speak English beyond "My Brother, Sam Saad, Pikeville, Kentucky," she had departed from Le Harve, France, seven days earlier on July 8. She arrived in New York with \$22 dollars in her purse, just enough to buy a one-way train ticket to Kentucky, and a three-day supply of fruit.

The departure and arrival of the ship that crossed the Atlantic has been confirmed by records in the National Archives. The information resides in passenger lists that were submitted to the United State Immigration Bureau.

If you think it quaint that in 1911, immigrants were asked if they were polygamists, you should know that they also were asked if they were anarchists. Even today the question about polygamy is asked of immigrants.

The immigration record reveals more: Mamma Rahija's nationality was classified as Syrian, but her country of origin was Turkey.

From her stories, I know she sailed the Mediterranean Sea to Marseille in southern France. Now that it is confirmed that her ship departed from Le Harve, it is logical to assume that she traveled from Marseille to Le Harve by train, with a connection in Paris.

How did this young, uneducated, village girl, travel 5500 miles to the U.S.A. alone? She recalled that she was "escorted" by some "nice people" who "looked after me." But she did not remember who they were. The passenger list reveals that there was a family of 3 Syrians (also from Turkey). They were Yousef Azize, a 32 year old mason, his 22 year old wife, Mansoura, and an infant, Nemetallah. I believe it was they who escorted my mother through France, to the United States. Unfortunately, for reasons unknown the record shows that the Azize family was "deported," perhaps to San Juan, Puerto Rico. They did not lack for a sponsor, as a brother lived in New York City at 24 Washington Street. They had \$43.

Mamma Rahija never mentioned to me the name of her ship, the S. S. La Lorraine, but her fifth and youngest daughter was named

"Lorraine". Perhaps she unwittingly recalled the name, associating it with this exciting and memorable time of her life.

The immigration record reveals that at 18 years of age, Rahija was five feet four inches tall, had a fair complexion, chestnut colored hair and "black" eyes. Her health was good, and she had no identifying marks or signs of bad health, mental or physical. Her father was Assaf Saad from the village of "Kfaire."

The official record is titled "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival." The information was apparently recorded during the voyage. It is a large book, measuring 16 by 17 1/2 inches. The information for one person takes a single line that goes across two pages.

This source of this genealogical information was researched in only a few moments in the Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, Indiana), site of one of the most extensive genealogy departments in the United States. One starts a search with an index system--"Soundex"--which groups names phonetically. For example, the code for Bassett (B240) brings together these spellings: Bassiti, Bissett, Bassat, Bisset, Bisset, Bisetti, Bassotti, Biscotti, Bussetti, Bizzotto, Baschetti, Bossiotto, and Bassett. Within the B240 category, the cards are arranged alphabetically by first name.

The microfilm consists of photos of 3 and 1/2 inch index cards, each containing the name of a single person. On the card is a code, which, when sent to the National Archives in Washington, brings a confirmation that the passenger list is on record and is available. At a cost of \$5.00, a xerox copy of the appropriate pages from the original Bureau of Immigration record book may be ordered.

The Library's Genealogy Department has microfilms of immigrant passenger lists from 1820 through 1943. The indexed lists cover 1902 to 1943. Records exist for the ports of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and other smaller ports. The records from 1843 through 1902 are not cross indexed.

Other important genealogy information includes the 1910 census, which a record of all persons living in a household. The 1920 census will not be released until 1992, but the Allen County Public Library has already received a \$300,000 grant to purchase the census. The Canadian census for the years 1825 through 1891 are also available on microfilm.

--Abe J. Bassett