



Vol. 2, No. 5, January 31, 2020

In this issue:

- New Release: *Souvenirs from Kiev*, by Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger
- Building a Log Cabin
- Author Spotlight: Linore Rose Burkard
- Reading Roundup: Books from the 1950s

From the Editor

Oh, I can tell there's going to be a lot of great books to read in 2020! So many of the authors that have been featured in Pages of the Past has a new book coming out this year. We'll be featuring them as they get released. Today's featured author, Linore Rose Burkard shares that she has a new series beginning this year, too.

I'm going to have to tell that ole' day job that they need to cut back my hours. I've got books to read. And write!

This week I'm sharing a bit of what I've found in my research about building a log cabin – information I'll need as I dive into my own next new book – *Goss Hollow*. Next week we'll be talking a little bit about characters from real life, with some examples of how Charles Dickens used real life people in his books.

Trisha

texastrishafaye@yahoo.com



[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)

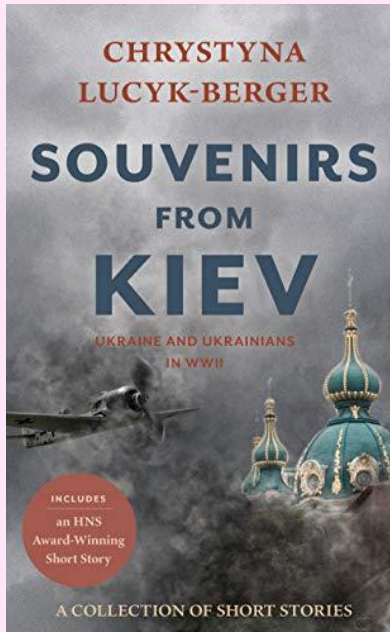
Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>

New Release – Souvenirs from Kiev

Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger was our featured author on June 28, 2019. If you missed her interview, [you can catch it here](#). Her newest book, *Souvenirs from Kiev*, releases today! Congratulations Chrystyna!

[Souvenirs from Kiev](#)

Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger



Kiev. 1942. Larissa is a renowned embroiderer, surviving in occupied Ukraine as a seamstress in her ruin of a workshop. When an SS officer arrives to order a traditionally embroidered Ukrainian shirt, Larissa uses the opportunity to create a piece of art from her handiwork. Threading together the history and the horrors between the two enemies, she finds a way to express her defiance toward the Nazis and the local collaborators. But at what price?

Prepare yourself for an unforgettable journey behind the Second World War's eastern front. Six short stories, based on the author's family's true accounts, will put you alongside painters and poets, partisans and dissidents, as they navigate through Ukraine's war-torn landscape on a harrowing escape from tyranny.

Souvenirs from Kiev was awarded 2nd Place in the 2014 HNS International Short Story Award.

Building a Log Cabin

We're historical fiction authors. We don't need to know how to build a log cabin.

That's what I thought. Until I started plotting out my next book. *Goss Hollow* is loosely set around my great-great-great-great-Grandma, Martha "Patsy" Goss. She, along with her husband, Benjamin Franklin Goss, and several grown children and grandchildren, left Georgia in a wagon train in 1851 and moved to Big Fork, Arkansas.

Building a log cabin is not necessarily part of the overall plot – but, it is part of their everyday life. As the wagon train arrived at the 40 acres B.F. Goss's father, Thomas Goss, won in a land lottery in 1832, this activity would have been one of their primary first duties. They needed to build shelter for their families in these dense, wooded Ozark hills.

I discovered that while I didn't need to learn every aspect about building a log cabin, there were some features that I needed to find out so in order to create a believable story.

How long did it take?

How did they cut the logs?

How were they put together?

Were some logs preferred over others?

What kind of structure did it make for the family to live in?

How did living in a log cabin (few windows, large chinks between the logs, drafty, cold in severe winters etc.) affect their day-today life?

I'm still researching and don't have all the answers I want to have yet. But it's okay. I'm only about 2,000 words into the story and the family is still living in Georgia. But I did discover some fun pieces of information. So, if you're an author writing a pioneer type story, or will have a character building a log cabin, here's a few snippets and links for you.

Ducksters, an education site geared towards children has these fun facts.

[Interesting Facts about the Log Cabin](#)

- The first log cabins in the Americas were built by emigrants from Sweden and Finland. Log cabins had been built in these countries for thousands of years.
- One man working alone could build a small log cabin in a few weeks. It went much faster if he had help.
- If the roof was high enough, the pioneers often built a loft where someone could sleep.
- A flat stone was often placed at each corner of the log cabin to give the cabin a firm foundation.
- The doors to log cabins were usually built facing the south. This allowed the sun to shine into the cabin during the day.

Judith Flanders wrote an excellent article, [Log Cabin History: The Secrets of Making a Home](#). In it, she shares a more detailed history about the log cabin styled homes and also about the earlier days of America. For instance, she tells that only one home in six owned a spinning wheel,

which was interesting to me. Somehow, I pictured every early American woman sitting around in the evening working on her wheel.

She also tells that Lincoln Logs, the children's building blocks we children spent many an hour creating magnificent structures with, were first produced in 1916. I had no idea they'd been around for so long. I also didn't know that they were designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright's son. The things one can discover when they're not in search of that specific information!

What I was most excited to find was this description of log cabin living, written in 1822. [National Center posted it](#). Here's an excerpt:

... We had a window, if it could be called a window, when, perhaps, it was the largest spot in the top, bottom, or sides of the cabin at which the wind could not enter. It was made by sawing out a log, and placing sticks across; and then, by pasting an old newspaper over the hole, and applying some hog's lard, we had a kind of glazing which shed a most beautiful and mellow light across the cabin when the sun shone on it. All other light entered at the doors, cracks, and chimney.

Our cabin was twenty-four feet by eighteen. The west end was occupied by two beds, the center of each side by a door, and here our symmetry had to stop, for on the side opposite the window were our shelves, made of clapboards, supported on pins driven into the logs. Upon these shelves my sister displayed, in ample order, a host of pewter plates, basins, dishes, and spoons, scoured and bright. It was none of your new-fangled pewter made of lead, but the best of London pewter, which our father himself bought of the manufacturer. These were the plates upon which you could hold your meat so as to cut it without slipping and without dulling your knife. But, alas! the days of pewter plates and sharp dinner knives have passed away.

To return to our internal arrangements. A ladder of five rounds occupied the corner near the window. By this, when we got a floor above, we could ascend. Our chimney occupied most of the east end; there were pots and kettles opposite the window under the shelves, a gun on hooks over the north door, four split-bottom chairs, three three-legged stools, and a small eight by ten looking-glass sloped from the wall over a large towel and combcase. Our list of furniture was increased by a clumsy shovel and a pair of tongs, made with one shank straight, which was a certain source of pinches and blood blisters. We had also a spinning-wheel and such things as were necessary to work it. It was absolutely necessary to have three-legged stools, as four legs of anything could not all touch the floor at the same time...

Although by now I've probably share more than you'll ever want to know about building a log cabin, here's a fun little video to watch. It's a short 5-minute time lapse video that shows one man building a log cabin by himself. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmYCUljsrDg>

Now the test begins, to see if I'll be able to take this new-found knowledge and incorporate the snippets into *Goss Hollow* in a realistic manner. We'll find out at the end of the year when I finish the book.

[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>

Author Spotlight – Linore Rose Burkard

A little Young Adult, a little Contemporary fiction, and a whole lot of Regency. That's what you'll find when you look up this weeks featured author, Linore Rose Burkard. This talented author has many books out, her latest *Forever, Lately*, set in 1816. I'm glad she agreed to an interview for Pages of the Past, because now I know that she has some new books coming out this next year too. Come join us as we chat with Linore.



Welcome Linore! You have quite a collection of books that you've written, in several different genres. You've written contemporary suspense, contemporary romance, and romantic short stories. From the other genres, what drew you to write in the Regency period?

Actually, I started with a trilogy of Regencies with *Harvest House*, so the contemporaries came afterward, and my latest book, *Forever, Lately*, was a return to my first love, so to speak. The Regency is my favorite genre. So for me it's more a question of what drew me *away* from it. The answer is that I live in this contemporary world, so it would be impossible not to also write contemporary stories. The stories come to me, I write them, lol.

One of your books, *Forever, Lately* is set in England in 1816. How did you go about researching for *Forever, Lately*?

Since I'd already written a number of Regencies, my research for this book was more a brush up on past research. I did have to study certain things about the Maine setting, since the book goes back and forth from Maine to England, and I've only been to Maine once. But research today is so much easier than in the past. For my first books, I spent countless hours in the library and had to hunt down certain resources for more information. Nowadays, authors can find nearly everything they need online.

It's so easy to do a little homework, in fact, that it's pretty mind-boggling that I saw a recent "Regency" where the main character called her father "pa," (Um. No. That's American, not English usage and definitely not Regency. It is always "papa" with the accent on the second syllable.) This same book referred to money as "coppers" -- that is so NOT Regency. Obviously I didn't buy it after taking a peek. But to me, this is a lazy author, especially today when research is so widely available. (We historical authors tend to be picky about this sort of thing!)

***Forever, Lately* won the Book of the Month award from Interviews and Reviews. It's now in the running for Book of the Year. As an author, how does it make you feel and how does it impact your life?**

It's humbling and gratifying, no doubt about it. Every author is plagued by doubts that it's all a bunch of drivel and no one will enjoy it. We lose objectivity because we're so close to a work. So outside affirmations are always welcome; reviews are a way we can step back and see our work from afar, like an artist standing away from the canvas. But when those doubts assail, an award goes a long way to quieting the voices and inner noise that can get in the way if you let them.

I know that asking an author about which of her books is her favorite is like asking a mother who her favorite child is. But...do you have a favorite? Which one is it and why?

I usually feel the book I'm writing at any given time is my favorite! But there are certain things I love about each book that are particular to only that one. For instance, what readers call "the tree scene" in *Before the Season Ends*, is one that stands out, not only for readers, but for me. (It's the first scene I envisioned for that book, even though it occurs in chapter five.) There's a wacky comedic scene in my new book (coming out in late Spring, *Miss Tavistock's Mistake*, that I already know will be another reader favorite. It's the humorous scenes that I enjoy most, and I try to put some humor in every book. *Forever, Lately* has some laugh-out-loud scenes. But as I think it over, *The House in Grosvenor Square* has what I consider my funniest scene ever, where a butler and housekeeper have to actually lock a rector inside a small room in Mr. Mornay's town mansion, due to a misunderstanding. Misunderstandings make for great comedy.

Is there anything you'd like to share with us that I didn't ask you about?

Miss Tavistock is the first in a new Regency series, *Brides of Mayfair*, two of which should be out before the end of the year. And I'm currently gathering a launch team for Miss T., so that if any avid readers who enjoy historical romance and also write reviews are interested in joining my team, they can email me at Linore (at) LinoreBurkard (dot) com. Launch team members get inside information about the book and a free ARC (advanced reader copy) in exchange for a review.



Links to three of Linore Rose Burkard's books are here.
Check out her Amazon page for more!

Before the Season Ends: <https://amzn.to/2tU4XUg>

The House in Grosvenor Square: <https://amzn.to/36EuRbP>

Forever, Lately: A Regency Time Travel Romance <https://amzn.to/3b5paHo>

You can find Linore Rose Burkard here:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AuthorNewsfromLinore/>

GoodReads: <https://bit.ly/2vAxA9o>

Pinterest: <https://bit.ly/2Oe1eaZ>

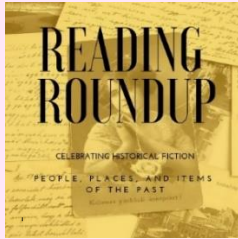
Linore Rose Burkard is a serious watcher of period films, a Janeite, and hopeless romantic. An award winning author best known for Inspirational Regency Romance, her first novel (*Before the Season Ends*) opened the genre for the CBA. Linore has a *magna cum laude* English Lit. degree from CUNY which she earned while taking herself far too seriously. She now resides in Ohio with her husband and family, where she turns her youthful angst into character or humor-driven plots.

Sign up for Linore's newsletter to be automatically entered in monthly book drawings. You'll also receive a free novella, *Coach and Four: Allisandra's Tale*, set in the days of King Charles II! Enter your email to join here: <http://www.LinoreBurkard.com> or at <http://www.LRBurkard.com>



[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)

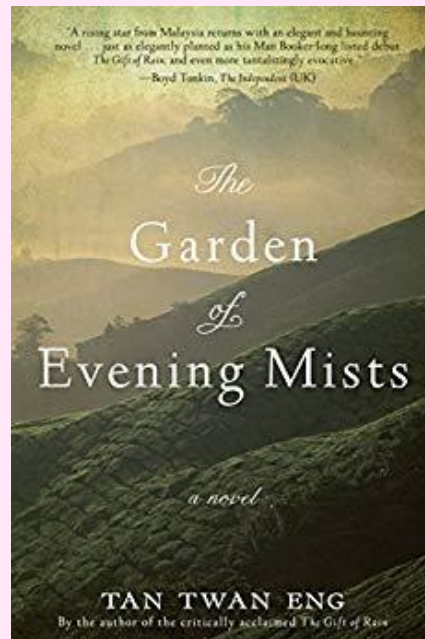
Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>



The 1950s

The Garden of Evening Mists

Tan Twan Eng



Malaya, 1951. Yun Ling Teoh, the scarred lone survivor of a brutal Japanese wartime camp, seeks solace among the jungle-fringed tea plantations of Cameron Highlands. There she discovers Yugiri, the only Japanese garden in Malaya, and its owner and creator, the enigmatic Aritomo, exiled former gardener of the emperor of Japan. Despite her hatred of the Japanese, Yun Ling seeks to engage Aritomo to create a garden in memory of her sister, who died in the camp. Aritomo refuses but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice until the monsoon comes. Then she can design a garden for herself. As the months pass, Yun Ling finds herself intimately drawn to the gardener and his art, while all around them a communist guerilla war rages. But the "Garden of Evening Mists" remains a place of mystery. Who is Aritomo and how did he come to leave Japan? And is the real story of how Yun Ling managed to survive the war perhaps the darkest secret of all?

[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>