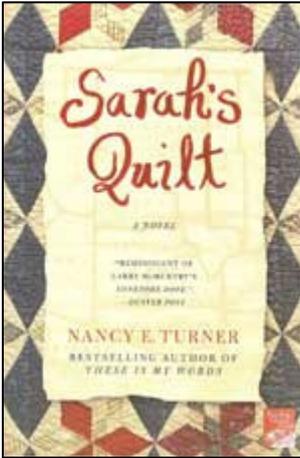


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- May 2007



People often tell me they have fallen in love with a certain character of mine and keep hoping for more stories starring that character.

I have fallen in love with Sarah Agnes Prine, the star and narrator of *These is My Words*, written by Nancy E. Turner. Sarah is the author's great grandmother.

Our Bookies reading group meets the first Thursday of the month at our local Books and Crannies bookstore and we read *These is My Words* over a year ago. It instantly became a favorite with our group, and we've been waiting for the sequel ever since.

I have to tell you, the sequel is even better than the first. *Sarah's Quilt* grabs you from the first page and won't let you quit... or even slow down.

Life in Arizona Territory in 1906, in the Tucson area was not easy—we knew that—but throw in a three year drought, water problems, people problems, oh, and the San Francisco earthquake...and, well, you get the idea.

Sarah is one intrepid, hard-working, family-loving, ranch-living kind of woman who cares for not only for her entire family, but neighbors, scalawags, and other folks newly arrived.

I laughed in places and cried in others, always with a strong admiration for this woman of the west. The fact that she actually lived made the story all the more enthralling.

I'd suggest that to get the most enjoyment from this book, you might want to read the first one, *These is my Words*, before *Sarah's Quilt* but it isn't necessary. I also suggest starting this book when you have the time, or can take the time, to read on through. If you can read it in pieces, especially toward the end, my hat is off to you.

When I'm speaking, an often-requested topic is how to "Build on Your Family Memories." We all know that life is never again going to be the way we or our parents grew up, but future generations will want to know what happened in the earlier years.

What is their family history, are there any skeletons in the closets? As my youngest son said one time when he was very little, "what was it like when you were a kid, Mom, back in the coal days?"

After I quit laughing, I had to do a bit of explaining about the epochs of time. Then I told him about my pony, Polly and living on two different farms in Minnesota before we moved to Washington State.

Now I know everyone can't turn their family history into novels like Nancy has done, but you can write down your memories and keep them in a notebook, or turn them into a

bound book, there are kits for doing that. Add pictures to your pages and have them all copied at the local copy store and even bound with a plastic spiral.

Or if you don't write, sit down and tell the stories into a tape recorder, or video. In this age of easy access to the tools needed, there is no excuse for not doing it. I have seen wonderful family histories done and shared with all the family members because one person cared enough to take the time to do it.

Guess I'll get off my soapbox now. I hope you enjoy *Sarah's Quilt* and all the other books you can find at your local bookstore. And keep a watch for *Sophie's Dilemma*, my next book in the Daughter's of Blessing series.

Until next time,

Happy Readin' and Writin' from Lauraine