

Life Memories
of
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Written December 7, 1939
at Connellsville, Pa.

Memories of Life

Andrew E. Matuschak was born at Richnava, County of Spiska
in Austria, Hungery (now in Slovakia).

I was born on June 4, 1880, baptized on June 6.

Grandparents: I don't remember anything about my
father's parents.

Parents: Father--George Matuschak from Richnava.
Mother--Magdalena Papcun from Richnava.

Brothers and Sisters: Our parents were blessed with
six children--four girls and two boys. (When
this was written all were still living. Now
on April 25, 1966 only I remain). Childrens'
names were Katherine, John, Maria, Andrew, Anna
and Frances. Thus I was fourth born of the
family.

Mother's Parents: Mother's father was John Papcun, born
in Kluknava, then married and moved to Richnava
where his wife lived. Mother's mother was Ilena

Istocin, who remained to live in her father's house.

My birth year was 1880. I, Andrew Emil Matuschak, was born on June 4, 1880 at Richnava. I was baptized on June 6 at Kluknava, County of Spiska, at that time Austria-Hungary. Godparents were Andrew Głova and Maria Kana.

I started school in 1886. According to the law of the land it was required that all children must go to school daily from age six to age twelve. From the twelfth to fifteenth years each child was required to go to school Wednesday afternoons. However, there was little attendance because by this age the children were all at work. There was no time to think of school.

School:

Our school was of stone and with large windows. It was just one room for learning and the rest was the living quarters of the teacher. My teacher's name was Argalasy, Joseph. It was the custom to write the name thus. He was a teacher but had no diploma. He was educated as a tiller. He knew how to read and write and knew some Magyar and a little German. He was also an accomplished butcher. At butchering time he was called out to serve and we children remained to study ourselves, the brighter one taking over the class. I was one who taught, too.

Children enrolled in school: In school then there were about 90 pupils. They all were in one room. There were no classes. They sat on benches, the first graders in the first seat and so on, each grade on a separate bench up to the 6th grade and bench.

Teacher's Assignments:

Each child received a certain article in a book and had to learn it at night and by morning know it by heart and recite it before the teacher. Others had assignments to write and also in the morning had to write the lesson on the blackboard at school. Others again had arithmetic and these also had to have them worked out and in the morning to write on the blackboard after giving up the paper to the teacher in each case, so that he would know that others did not do the homework. Punishment was according to what was deserved. Kneeling for small digressions, for more serious ones paddling or hitting the finger tips.

Beginning of Work, 1890:

During the school term, in the morning I had to pasture and feed the animals - cows - and again after school until dark. Also during the summer I had to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and work until 8 o'clock at night or until dark.

Beginning of work in the factory; at the Krompach Steelworks:

The Krompach Steelworks was built about 1890. I started to work there as a young boy of about 10 years of age and we worked on the 1st foundation of the Blast Furnace. We boys worked with the bricklayers helping out for 12 hours a day, from 6 A.M. till 6 P.M. with 1/2 hour for lunch, for the pay of 50 gracers (cents) a day for several years. After the foundations for the blast furnaces were finished, other workers came to construct the furnaces. These were the boiler makers.

New Jobs:

We went on to build new foundations of concrete. Then the boiler makers came to do the steel plate work about 100 ft. high and 16 - 30 ft. in circumference. When they were done we went in with the bricklayers to line the furnaces. We then went to work at the Rolling Mills. These were divided into Fine Strek and Middle Strek, depending on the products produced in them. At the Rolling Mill I had to watch the fine roller and keep it oiled with bacon grease. I also worked as a catcher and runner of the wire. Later I was transferred to the Middle Strek. There I was watchman of the water supply and oil supply of the rollers. This kept the rollers cooled and oiled. They made materials for mines and bridges. I worked at the Middle Rollers until I left for America.

Departure to America:

In the year of 1899 I had my brother, John, and two sisters, Katherine and Maria in America. So I decided that I, too, would go to America. But it was a hard thing, this, where to get the money. Just at this time when I was thinking of the fare and where to get the money, there arrived a letter from my sister's husband, my brother-in-law, Anthony Olsavsky (who died in 1912). This letter wrote that he had orphan's money in the old country and would my parents send it to him. When I learned of his inheritance I wrote him to ask if he would be good enough to let me borrow the money so that I could pay my passage to America and that I would repay him in the new country.

Permission from America:

A second letter came from my borther-in-law, Anthony Olsavsky, giving me permission so that I could come to America on his inheritance from his parents. There was much happiness that a 19-year old young man would go to America. On the next day I applied for a passport at the notary public.

The Trip to America:

There came the time when all was ready for the trip to America. My parents were saddened that they were losing their second son who was about to leave for this new country, America, and that maybe they would never again see him. My father was sad that his helper was leaving home and mother cried and cried that she reared us all and we all are leaving and how will she live without us. Already a fourth child is going to the new country America, and she would never get to see us again.

Reminder: Truly she said the truth, my dear mother, that she would never again see us because it so happened that none of us went back to the old country and she never saw us again.

1899

Trip on Train on the Way to America:

When we got on the train there were nine of us, all going the same way to America. There were three who had already been in America so we were gayer that we had with us guides who knew the way.

Oderberg:

When we came to the town of Oderberg we had to get off the train because it was the German boundary line. When we crossed the bridge we had to pass inspection of everything by the police who gave us permission to cross the border.

Route thru Germany:

On the Morning of May 7 in Oderberg we boarded the German train. That was a trip! They herded us into the boxcars with not even any benches. Who had a suitcase sat upon it, who had none had to stand the whole way.

Payment for Ship's Card; In Rattenberg:

We had a letter from a certain ship company in Bremen which sold ship cards. The train stayed in Rattenberg. We all had to get off and get into a building and we paid \$10.00 for the ship's card. We boarded the train again into the same boxcars. We stopped for a short time in Brehslave and Berlin and finally arrived at Bremen. We got off the train and were taken to hotels which took as many as each could. We arrived in Bremen on Monday night on May 8, 1899. Because there were so many travelers, there was no more room left in the ship. We had to wait for a week until Saturday, the 13th of May. The company paid the hotel charges as part of the passage fare. The fare from Bremen to Connellsville was 103 zlati or \$41 in American money. In Bremen we visited the city, seeing museums. On the 13th of May we boarded the ship which was awaiting us. The name of the ship was Frederik

FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE

Der Grosser. When we got on the ship it was a beautiful May day so we stayed on top ship until it moved out. Even though it was a beautiful month of May and we stayed topside because the days were fine, when we reached the middle of the ocean the ship began to rock and roll like a child in a cradle. People began to get seasick and had to stay in the ship. On Monday, the 22nd of May, we arrived safely in the city of New York. However, it was a holiday and they wouldn't let us off the ship until Tuesday. On the 23rd of May they brought us on small ships to Castle Guard Hall. We were all examined and checked to see if we had enough money with us. By law, a minimum of \$10, American money, was required. Those who didn't have the money or had some other difficiency were put aside and re-examined later. The total time on the ship was nine days.

Reminiscence, 1966:

In school we read of yellow people and Indians but never of black people. I never read or heard of them at all. Then at the station in New York I was shocked to see a black man peddling bananas. I thought he was a devil (black angel). I also didn't know what bananas were so I didn't buy any.

The Route from New York to Connellsville:

On the 23rd of May, 1899 we boarded a train at about 9 o'clock at night. We arrived in Connellsville at about 11 o'clock the next morning.

The Road to Lemont Furnace:

Because the address I had was to Lemont Furnace I got on another train there. When I asked for Anthony Olsavsky, to whose home I was going, I learned that he now lived at Leisenring. I stayed overnight at a fellow countrymen named Anthony Saluga from Kluknava. I took the train back to Connellsville and a streetcar to Leisenring #1. On the 25th of May, 1899 I finally arrived at the home of my sister and brother-in-law at House 85 at Leisenring #1, Pa.

Early Days at Leisenring #1. Pa.

When I arrived at Leisenring my sister, Katherine and her husband had just two children, Mary and Paul. Paul was killed at his job in Youngstown, Ohio. May his and his father's souls rest in peace, these wishes to both of them, their brother-in-law and uncle.

A.E.M. with Relatives:

I stayed at their house for about ten days, by which time my brother-in-law asked for a job for me in the mine at Leisenring #1 to work with him. I worked for several weeks and became very sore and so I stopped working in the mine.

McKeesport, Pa.:

In June I quit my job in the mine and went to McKeesport, Pa. where I had planned to go to work in a factory as I had been trained in the old country to work in the factory. I arrived there where I knew no one and didn't know any English and thoughts came to me

that in truth it was better in the old country.

National Tube Works:

I got a job at the National Tube Works about July 15 and I worked for \$1.10 a day for a ten hour day. It seemed like a good enough job except that the pay was too little. I worked there until Christmas, which was nearly six months. After Christmas the factory closed down for two weeks. After two weeks there was posted another notice that the factory would be closed for another two weeks. This annoyed me and I left everything there and came back to the mine in Leisenring #1, Pa.

New Job in the Mine, 1900:

When I came back I returned to my sister and her husband in the same house #85 at Leisenring, Pa. After a couple of days I got a job in the mine, where I started to work with my brother, John, and his partner, Frank Snider. I learned how to work in the mine with them. I worked with them for about a week and then went to work on my own. I worked in Room 6 at Four Face heading. I roomed and boarded with my sister until October when I left this job.

Leisenring #3, Pa.

When I left the job at Leisenring #1, I got a job at Leisenring #3. I roomed and boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Medvec at #170. I worked there until 1901 when I went again to work at Leisenring #1.

In 1901 when I came back to Leisenring #1, Anthony Olsavsky and family had already departed for Youngstown, Ohio, so I boarded at John Cenky's until I got a job at Trotter, Pa.

Trotter, Pa., 1902:

When I worked at Trotter I boarded at Matthew Magda at House #103. I stayed there until Magda left for Gates Mine. Then I went to board at Stephen Bezilla's home. But then at that time Mrs. Bezilla went to the old country and we had to board at Valent Ksenzak's. There I stayed until 1902.

Addenda, 1966:

Work was very easy to get in those days. All one had to do was to go to the boss and ask for a job and one had a job.

Pittsburgh, Pa. 1902:

While I was at Trotter, Pa. I was engaged to Maria Cervenko, but for certain reasons we cancelled our plans. Then I looked up a fellow countryman at 52 Butler St. I boarded at Mr. Andrew Susa's, another countryman from Richnava, Zupi. I worked at McConvey and Torley Co., a steel foundry at 48 Butler St. I worked as a molder helper. After a month's work I was named by the Big Boss as Labor Foreman. I had about 25 men who worked as a labor force. I was to observe that the work was satisfactory so that the molders could work well.

Connellsville Visit, 1903:

In the year of 1903 on the 4th of July we came to visit our countrymen in the mines. So I, Andrew E. Matuschak, and my buddy, Jacob Glova (deceased), came to the small towns of New Haven and Connellsville. On this visit we met Miss Clara Saksa, who had

only recently come from the old country and worked as a living-in maid at Mr. George and Maria Vascak at the corner of 8th St. at New Haven, Pa. I fell in love with Clara at first sight and I thought to myself that I would try to marry her. I returned to Pittsburgh but after a short time I left my job there.

Leisenring #1, Pa.

When I left my job at Pittsburgh, I came to Leisenring #1 about the beginning of September. I got a job in the mine at Leisenring #1. I boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Paul Simko's at #115.

Engagement:

When I worked at Leisenring #1, Pa. I decided that I would marry Clara Saksa if she wouldn't refuse me. I went to ask her for her permission to marry her. After a short time, we decided on the date to be the 24th of October, 1903. So we made preparations for the marriage and wedding.

Wedding Day of Andrew E. Matuschak and Clara Maria Saksa from Kalava:

On the 24th of October in 1903 at Leisenring everything was astir and people were eager to see this young man go with his bride to church at New Haven, Pa. At about 8 o'clock in the morning there came three carriages (two horse, four passenger) to Leisenring #1. The first had pure white horses and the others had black horses and stopped before the house of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Simko at #115. Here the attendants boarded to go to church for Mass and the marriage of the groom. Ushers were Mr. Paul Simko and Mr. Andrew Danko.

Young Newlyweds in Church for Holy Matrimony, and rembrances of
The Church of St. John Evangelist.

The Pastor at that time was Rev. Erwin E. Gelhoff, who was a well known priest. On October 24 he had a High Mass where vows were taken between Andrew Emil Matuschak, the bridegroom, with Miss Clara Maria Saksa, the bride. After the Mass there was a lunch at the parish house for the young couple and their attendants.

Picture Taking:

All the relatives went to Connellsville, Pa. in order to have pictures taken for remembrance. The relatives all then returned to Leisenring #1 where there was what might be called an old country wedding. Everything was merry for the old and for the young and even for the children, as there were kolachy and pop for treats. The wedding lasted from Saturday until Wednesday. At all times we had drinks and ate delicious spring chicken. There were no arguments at any time. We all celebrated like one good family.

Living Arrangements:

For a few days we lived at Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Podrocki's, who lived upstairs. After the wedding was all finished we had to worry about where to live. Fortunately there was a young couple, whose names I have forgotten, who moved to New York. So they sold us all their furnishings, which they had in the house at #17, the first house from the store down the hill from the school house at Leisenring #1. We lived there and I started again to work at Leisenring #1.

The First Child:

On July 31, 1904 was born our first son whom we had baptized Stephen. The godfather was Andrew Danko, who served as our best man. The godmother was Miss Maria Racek, who lived in at the Parish House of Rev. E.E. Gelhoff. She was a good friend of the Miss Clara Maria Saks, who worked just across the street at Vascaks. She is now Clara Matuschak, my wife. The baptism was on Aug. 13 by Rev. E.E. Gelhoff, who gave Miss Racek \$20 for her expenses of being godmother.

Work at Vascaks - 1905:

In about April, 1905, I left my job in the mine and started to work in the grocery store for Mr. George Vascak and son, Joseph, at New Haven on the corner of 8th and Main Sts., now West Side, Connellsville, Pa. I worked as a driver on the grocery wagon. I had two pretty horses and their run at this time was very good. Each day I made two trips. I went mostly to places like Leisenring #3, Leisenring #1, Trotter, Adelaide, Wheeler, Morrell, Dunbar. The best trip was to Dunbar where the Atlas and Mahony Mines were. These places were good places because there were no company stores and there were a lot of Slovak people.

In 1905 while I was working at Vascaks, we had to move from Leisenring #1. We moved to First Street at New Haven into a little old house which is still standing and no one had ever painted it.

Sadness in the Family:

After we moved to New Haven, Pa. about in July our first

small son became ill with some children's summer complaint. We helped as much as we could, and in fact, none of the doctors who examined him could do anything for him. He died on August 13, 1905 and was buried on August 15 with services by Rev. E.E. Gelhoff at the Slovak Cemetery at Brookvale, Pa.

1905:

About September, 1905 I left work for Mr. Vascak for too little pay. I got a job in the mine again at Trotter, Pa. I also moved to House #43 on Main St. across from the store. We lived there until we moved into our own new house at Brookvale, Pa.

Second Child:

On January 21, 1906 on a nice warm day was born a daughter. She was baptized Mary Elizabeth at St. John Ev. Church at New Haven, Pa. by Rev. E.E. Gelhoff. The godparents were Mr. Joseph Kanik and Mrs. Mary Danko.

Third Child:

In 1908 on May 3 was born a second daughter who was baptized Anna Sophia. Godparents were Mr. Andrew Danko and Mrs. Mary Kanik. After this, praise God, both little girls grew well and were healthy.

Building a House:

In 1909 about in March we got the idea of building a new house in Brookvale on the ground that we had bought from Rainey Co. in 1908. We decided to build a four-room, two story house, as this would be enough for our family which was small--only the two of us

and our two little girls. We let out the contract in 1909 at the beginning of April to Mr. James Slaughter. The house was to be 18' x 30', four rooms with a cellar seven feet high under the entire house. A chimney was to be built from the cellar up with four openings to the top. The house was to be covered with slate and be ready about July 15. On the 28th day of July we moved from Trotter to Brookvale into our new house. Then Mary was 3 1/2 years old and Anna was 1 year and about 2 1/2 months old. They knew little English as at Trotter we only spoke Slovak. When I moved to Brookvale, I still continued to work at Trotter.

Fourth Child:

On December 4, 1909 a son was born to us who was baptized at St. John Ev. Church by Rev. E.E. Gelhoff. He was named Andrew John. Godparents were Mr. Joseph Kanik and Mrs. Mary Danko. All remained well and in good health.

Fifth Child:

On June 3, 1912 was born our fifth child. This was a son who was baptized Joseph Paul by Rev. Anton Filkorn. Godparents were Mr. Andrew Danko and Mrs. Mary Kanik. It was a gay occasion as there was also music from Leisenring #3. Brothers-in-law Stefan Podvoysky and Jacob Saksa and others brought the music and everything was fine and it was a nice celebration.

Death of Parents:

The parents of Andrew E. Matuschak died as follows:

Father - George Matuschak died in 1907.

Mother - Magdalena Matuschak, born Papcun, died Dec. 26, 1938 at the age of 84 at Richnava.

They are buried at Richnava Cemetery. May the earth be light. May they rest in peace and may their grace be eternal in heaven.

The father of my wife, Clara Matuschak, who lived at Kalava, was named Jacob Saksa. He died in 1901 before Clara's departure to America at age 47.

Her mother, named Maria Rabatin Saksa, has also died. Both are buried in Kalava Cemetery. May they have holy rest.

Sixth Child:

On February 23, 1914 was born to us a sixth child, a son who was baptized Stephen Matthew at St. John's Ev. Church at Connells-ville, by Rev. Anton Filkorn. Godparents were Mr. Joseph Kanik and Mrs. Mary Danko. The christening was at home at Brookvale, Pa.

Seventh Child:

On August 13 in 1916 was born to us the seventh child in the family at Brookvale, Pa. She was baptized Margaret Clara by Rev. Stephan Ulrich and the godparents were Mr. Andrew Danko and Mrs. Maria Kanik.

Eighth Child:

On April 15, 1918 a daughter was born. She was named Helen Anastasia and godparents were Mr. Joseph Kanik and Mrs. Mary Danko. Helen died at about five months of whooping cough.

Ninth Child:

On May 23, 1919 was born to us a daughter who was named Frances Julia. She was baptized by Rev. S. Moravek. Godparents were Andrew Danko and Mrs. Maria Kanik.

Tenth Child:

On July 22, 1921 a son was born named Emil and he failed at once. He was baptized at home by Rev. S. Moravek and godparents were hurriedly Mr. Frank Ilcin and Mrs. Anna Ilcin. He died within a very short time.

Eleventh Child:

On February 14, 1923 a son was born and was named Edward Valentine. On about the fourth day he had convulsions so again we called Rev. S. Moravek to come to the house to baptize him. Not only did he become very ill but also the weather was severely cold. Godparents were again Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ilcin. This child still lives as I write these notes on Dec. 11, 1939, but he is still sick. He neither talks nor walks so is a great worry and care mostly to his dear mother, may God give her health.

Note: Death came to Edward V. Matuschak on October 15, 1952. He is buried at the Slovak Cemetery at Brookvale, Pa. After this his mother's health began to fail. Then we had a golden wedding on Oct. 24, 1953. We had a mass by Rev. Moravek on the 23rd and on the 24th by Ass't. Joseph Portasik. We had a nice portrait taken and a dinner was served under the church to about 200 family and friends. Speaker at the occasion was our dear son, Attorney

Joseph P. Matuschak for which good wishes I am sincerely grateful.

Shortage of Work:

In 1922 there took place a great miners' strike so that people were greatly saddened and everyone worked wherever he could besides the mine. I worked for a while at home where I built a store. When I finished this, I worked on the highway from Mt. Braddock to Uniontown on Route 119. The contractor was Wilmer Wilkey.

Work at Scottdale, Pa.:

After the work on the road which stopped because of cold weather, I went to work in a pipe works at Scottdale. I worked there until Jan. 31, 1923 and after that I went back to the mine at Trotter, Pa. In Feb. 1923, I started to work at Trotter after the strike. I worked until Sept. 24 and at this time Leisenring #1 stopped work. My brother John, who came to Trotter to look for a job from an acquaintance, Mr. Boyd, the superintendent at Trotter. What he asked of him I do not know--only that when my brother got a job at Trotter, then in about two weeks, Boyd laid me off of work. He told me to take my tools from the mine. Whether my brother had anything to do with this or not I do not accurately know. But I think that there was something to this mixup and I never found out about it. I think, myself, it was because I went on strike and also because I housed my brother and brother-in-law during the strike--otherwise they would have worked.

New Work, 1924:

After I was laid off at Trotter, I got a job at Palmer, Pa. I worked there for a few months and boarded at brother-in-law, Stephan Podvoysky. When work opened up at Leisenring #3, I got a job there in Dec. 1924. I worked there for a longer time, but even there, when Boyd found out where I was working, I think he blackened me before Supt. Pisula because Supt. Pisula laid me off from work without giving any reason. Why he laid me off not even the assistant mine foreman knew. After losing the job at Leisenring #3, I got a job at Star Junction, Pa. and after a certain time I went to work at Colonial #3, Pa. in Feb. 1928, again under H. C. Frick Co. I worked there until Nov. 1931 and again work slackened and single men were laid off. The Superintendent, Mr. Mervin, laid me off too. I went to ask him why so, he told me that I had two daughters who were schoolteachers and that I had support. After being laid off from Col.#3, I couldn't find work anywhere for more than a year. I kept going back to Col #3 but for nothing--Mr. Mervin didn't want to give me a job again. Finally after much asking at Col. #3, the mine foreman, Mr. Jim Yokim talked to me and said it was useless for me to come there so much because Mervin would not give me a job back and that he would give me a transfer to Colonial #4 and the mine boss and the superintendent, Mr. Smith, accepted me. I started to work on July 11, 1933 - Check #369.

Hurt at work at Colonial #4, Pa.

About two months after I started to work at Col. #4, I was

changed to another section where I got check #853. I worked here for about five years. Then I was again changed to another section to Star Junction at Red Lion Mine where I had check #873. I worked from Dec. 15, 1938 until the present, at which time I have a broken foot. On Nov. 9, 1939 I got a broken bone in my foot - the instep and so now I am at home. The day after my accident at Red Lion, which belongs to Col. #4, I was sent to Brownsville General Hospital. I was there for three days and nights until my foot became unswollen. Then the doctor put on a cast on Nov. 13 and sent me home and said I was to come back every two weeks. I went back on Nov. 25 but the doctor did nothing and just looked at the foot. On the second trip on Dec. 9 the doctor removed the cast, the nurse worked it a little and that was all they did. They didn't tell me to grease it with anything--only to come back in two weeks time to the hospital.

(Added in 1946)

The next time I went they told me I could go to work again. I worked at Red Lion until 1942 and they transferred us to West Leisenring. There I got to work day work. I worked at D Face Section for Mr. Frank Murphy, Ass't. Mine Foreman. I worked there until I went on pension on Aug. 30, 1945, a year ago today.

1963

I have been writing these notes for more than 17 years--going on the 18th from Aug. 1962. As I am writing this it is Feb. 6, 1963. We had a wedding jubilee every year until 1959. As we were again

looking forward to our 56th, our wife and mother died after long illness at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Oct. 20, 1959. Thus, in place of a celebration, we had her funeral on Oct. 24, 1959. She was laid out at home where she lived and was housekeeper for over 50 years. Paul Fink was the undertaker and Monsignor Joseph Kushner of Donora and the local priest, Rev. Joseph Bednarik and Rev. Joseph Portasik of Columbus, Ohio (Father Moravek's assistant) were celebrants of the funeral mass. They all three came to the house for services, then had a mass and all three went for services at graveside at St. John's Cemetery. She was buried beside the deceased Edward V. Matuschak, with whom she labored all his life. He neither walked nor talked in all his 29 years and the work around him surely shortened the life of his mother, who had to take care of him as though he were a little baby.

I was left a sad widower after the funeral of my beloved wife. I remained at home and as I write it is more than three years that I watch the store and house with heavy heart.

In May, 1900 I joined the Narodny Spolok. There for a short time I was financial secretary. I took the dues from all the members and I also served on the convention committee when the Spolok had their convention in Connellsville in May, 1906.

I obtained my citizenship papers in Uniontown, Pa. on April 6, 1909. The witnesses were Mr. Anton Olsavsky and Mr. Frank Ilcin.

Lodges: First Catholic Slovak Jednota in New Haven, Pa.

I entered into Chapter 303 of the Jednota in 1904. In 1905

I was elected financial secretary and I was an officer every year including president, secretary and treasurer, except in 1923 when I completely refused an office. All thru the years I have been the financial secretary who also has charge of the minutes of the lodge. I also went to three Jednots conventions--the 18th at Pittsburgh, Pa., to the 24th at Cleveland in 1934 where I was on the by-laws committee, and in 1937 at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where I was also on the by-laws committee.

In 1913 I became senior chairman of the young people's Jednots, taking over the office from Valent Simko who went to farm in Wisconsin. From this time I was senior chairman which had 250 members. However, new chapters were formed from these and now we have just 60 members. I have been senior chairman for 26 years and I worried how to best keep a vital and growing lodge, but because it is a small parish and there are seven junior lodges, it is difficult to maintain a membership, so with the bickering, parents would rather put their children in insurance. We need more brotherly love between the Slovaks in America.

On Aug. 6, 1906 there was organized a lodge by Brother Andrew Capak under the name of First Slovak Roman and Greek Catholic Union. At this time in the state of Pennsylvania, Brother Capak called the officers, Joseph Ridillu, who at this time lived at Dawson, Pa. and who was Vice-President of the head chapter. The lodge was formed at my home at House #43 at Trotter, Pa. I wrote up the new members and was #142. When the chapter was accepted and was just growing and needed a lot of work, I was elected financial secretary.

Parish Responsibilities:

When I came from the old country in 1899, I came to the parish of St. John Evangelist. For over 40 years I have belonged to this parish. I took a lively interest in the parish life. I went faithfully to all parish meetings. I was also many times secretary of the meetings. I was also church usher in 1923-24-25 when the new parish school was being built.

Wartime - 1915:

During the time of the great world war from 1914 to 1918 I was a member of the Slovak Legion, which was active in our Slovak rights and powers. I wrote several letters toward the construction and help in the work of our Slovakia.

Slovak Catholic Organization:

In these hard war times we had also a branch of Slovak Catholic League. I was a member of this league, but after a short time, it was dissolved and there is no local chapter now when there is such great need to build out Roman and Greek Catholicity.

Holy Name Society:

In Connellsville we now have a nice lodge named Holy Name of Jesus and of which I am a member from its founding. We have over 100 members and we might have more with a little work among our young People.

Reminder: 1939:

Now, I, Andrew Emil Matuschak will write for advice as a main reminder only for our children.

Remember that even though I might be dead and be asleep in the black earth these words that I am writing in good faith in this book may be read even in a hundred years and even more. Remember well when you read to conclusions.

First of all remember your parents--how I am, you already know--but remember that you have a good and dear mother. In case I die earlier, never do her any wrong, be obedient and respect her even to her death, because she was very good to you. You dear children must recognize that even though everything didn't go your way, you should never be angry with your parents and respect your dear mother who worked so hard and long for you. Better you should thank God that God gave her health that she could work for you and could serve you.

Another reminder - 1939:

As I write as your father, don't feel angry because I write only the truth so that whoever reads these words will always remember them - love one another.

In conclusion in our family there were eleven children who are here named by their seniority: Mary A., Anna K., Andrew J., Joseph P., Stephen M., Margaret C., and Frances J., and Edward V. So eight are living and three died - Stefan, Helen, and Emil.

Life and Work:

So Mary Elizabeth Matuschak was first of all the children. As oldest, she had to work more. Remember that she had to tend you

and study when she went to school and she also helped Mother at home. As the oldest of you, she started to work when she was about 13 years of age at the Macaroni Factory and also at the Silk Mill. However, she didn't like work at the Silk Mill because of the great din and noise from the machines so she decided to go to school for higher education. She went to California State Teachers College where she passed as a public school teacher, and she began to teach right away so she was a help for Anna to go to the same school. Anna passed well too, as a teacher and in a short time began to teach at Juniata, Pa. Give them credit.

So dear children, as you read these words, keep always in mind that without Mary's and later Anna's help, you would not be what you are; that is, it would not be possible to give you the education that you have because your parents would not have been able to pay out so much. You must recognize that Mary and later Anna were, so to speak, a foundation under the building. They were your foundation to your education.

All of you remember them for this, if you at some time are able to help them out and even if you can't, at least give them the credit they deserve.

Dear children, as you all have your mind, know that you have one brother to whom God has not given what you have - that is, good health and a sound mind. These he does not have, and because Mother did not want to send him anywhere, we have much trouble, but especially your dear mother, may God give her health. If something should happen to your parents, remember this boy, Edward, and if you

don't want to work about him as his mother did, then be good enough to see that he is well taken care of. This I ask of you, your dear father who will be deceased.

Andrew E. Matuschak, written on the 13th of Dec. 1939 at Connellsville, Pa.

Written, Oct. 20, 1959:

My dear beloved wife and my dear children, your good Mother, who held you all in great love, died during the night on Oct. 20, 1959 in Pittsburgh, Pa. at Mercy Hospital. She was brought to the undertaker on Oct. 21, and after preparation, was brought to our home. The undertaker was Paul Fink. He took care of her until Oct. 24. Three priests came to the house for the funeral services. They were Monsignor Joseph Kushner of Donora, assisted by Rev. Joseph Bednarik. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Portasik. After the church services, all three accompanied her to the cemetery in Brookvale, Pa. where last services were held and we wished her God-speed. Then we all went into the hall under the church and were served a lunch by the Christian Mothers. For this, the family is very grateful and may God repay them for their good works and may God give them good health and all their wishes.

Andrew E. Matuschak, saddened husband, and children.

PASSENGER RECORD

American Family Immigration History Center® at Ellis Island

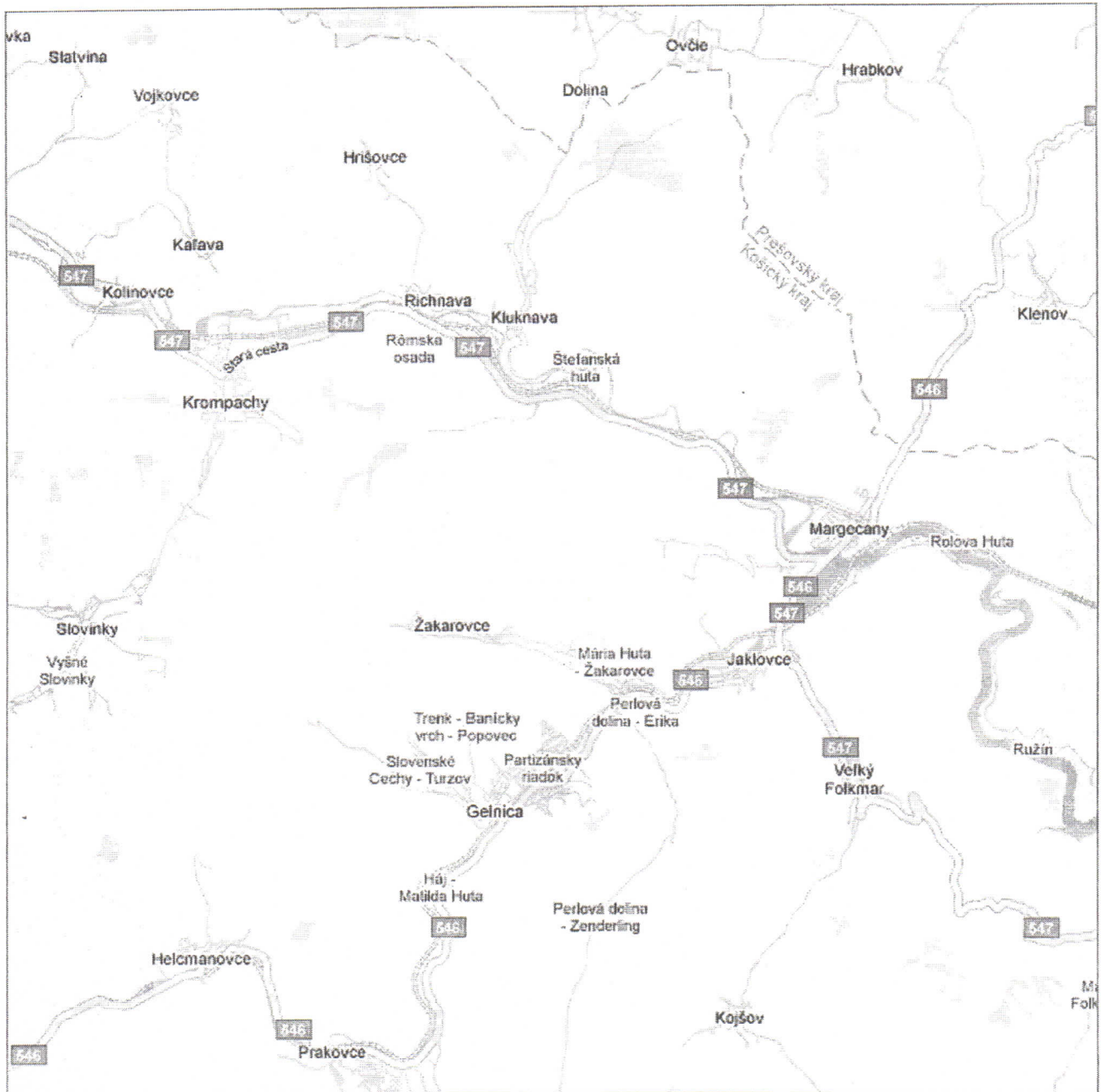
First Name:	Andras
Last Name:	Matuscsak
Nationality:	Hungary, Hungarian
Last Place of Residence:	Richno
Date of Arrival:	May 23, 1899
Age at Arrival:	19y
Gender:	M
Marital Status:	S
Ship of Travel:	Friedrich der Grosse
Port of Departure:	Bremen
Manifest Line Number:	0027



The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

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Maps

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Upgrade

1920 United States Federal Census

Name:	Andrew Matuscak [Andrew Matusiak]																										
Home in 1920:	Dunbar, Fayette, Pennsylvania																										
Age:	39																										
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1881																										
Birthplace:	Slavonia [Slovenia] [Dominica]																										
Relation to Head of House:	Self (Head) [Head]																										
Spouse's Name:	Clara Matuscak																										
Father's Birth Place:	Slavonia [Slovenia]																										
Mother's Birth Place:	Slavonia [Slovenia]																										
Marital Status:	Married																										
Race:	White																										
Sex:	Male																										
Home owned:	Own																										
Year of immigration:	1899																										
Able to read:	Yes																										
Able to Write:	Yes																										
Neighbors:	View others on page																										
Household Members:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Andrew Matuscak</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clara Matuscak</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Matuscak</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anna Matuscak</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Matuscak</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Matuscak</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* Stephen Matuscak</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margarett Matuscak</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>[3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4/12]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frances Matuscak</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>[7]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Andrew Matuscak	39	Clara Matuscak	37	Mary Matuscak	13	Anna Matuscak	11	Andrew Matuscak	10	Joseph Matuscak	8	* Stephen Matuscak	5	Margarett Matuscak	3		[3		4/12]	Frances Matuscak	0		[7]
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Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Dunbar, Fayette, Pennsylvania; Roll: T625_1568; Page: 9A; Enumeration District: 24; Image: 711.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#). Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 are on roll 323 (Chicago City).

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census of the United States. It includes all states and territories, as well as Military and Naval Forces, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Panama Canal Zone. The census provides many details about individuals and families including: name, gender, age, birthplace, year of immigration, mother tongue, and parents' birthplaces. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1920 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

Litterae Baptismales. — Krstný list. — Keresztlevél.

N. 181.

Infrascriptus fidei digne testor in Matricula Baptisatorum Ecclesiae Paroecialis

in Slovackia sequentia contineri: *Prešov* Dioc. *Prešov*

Podpisany hodnoverne svedčím, že v matricke pokrstiených farského kostola *Prešov* v župe *Prešov* na Slovensku, nasledujúce dáta sa nachádzajú:

Alulirott hiteliesen bizonyítom, hogy *Prešov* egyház keresteltek anyakönyvében a következő adatok foglaltak: *Prešov* vármegyéhez, Szlovenszékhoz tartozó

Anno Domini — Roku Pána — Urunk születése után: *1928. szeptember 20.* péntán a egyház keresteltek anyakönyvében a következő adatok foglaltak: *Prešov*

Numerus currens Bežné číslo Sorszám	Annus et dies Rok a den Éve és napja	Baptisati — Pokrsteného A kereszteltnek	Sexus pohlavie neme	legitimitas zakonniosť törvényessége	Parentum nomen. eorum Conditio et Religio Rodíčov meno, stav a vierovyznanie, obov'yzka. A szülőknek neve, polgári állása és vallása	Locus Domi- cili et Nr. Domus Bydlisko a číslo domu Lakhely és házszám	Patrinorum nomen. eorum Conditio Krsných rodičov meno a stav A keresztzütiők neve és polg. állása	Baptizantis nomen et offi- cium Krstítela meno a úrad A keresztelőnek neve és hivatala	Observationes Poznámky jegyzetek
1880.					<i>Georgius Matúškovič</i> <i>Prešov</i>		<i>Antonia Gloria</i> <i>Prešov</i>	<i>Peter</i> <i>Prešov</i>	
50.					<i>Margarita Páram</i> <i>Prešov</i>	<i>18.</i>	<i>Maria Slava</i> <i>Prešov</i>		

In quorum maius robur has propria manu subscriptas et Sigillo Paroeciali munias extradedi litteras.

Sig. die Mensis Anno 19

Táto listinu cieľom hodnovernosti som vlasinoručne podpísal a úradným razítkom opatril.

Dano *Prešov* dňa *20. sept. 1928*

Melyeknek nagyobb hitelűl kiadtam ezen saját aláírással és a hivatalos pecséttel ellátott oklevél.

Kell *Prešov* 19 *évi* hó *20.* n.



Anton Horvath
parochus

Litterae Baptismales. — Krstný list. — Keresztlevél.

X. 182.

Infrascriptus fidei digne testor in Matricula Baptisatorum Ecclesiae Paroecialis Sluškavce Dioc. Segediniensis Com. Acsavas in Slovackia sequentia contineri: Sluškavce v Slovensku, nasledujúce dáta sa nachádzajú: 3. Podpisany hodnoverne svedčím, že v matricke pokrstených farského kostola Sluškavce v župe Árvai, ktorý leží v diecese Árvai, Alutroiti hitelesen bizonyítom, hogy plébánia egyház keresztelték anyakönyvében a következő adatok foglaltaknak: 8 egyházmegyéhez 8 vátmegyéhez. Szlovenszkóhoz tartozó 8 egyházmegyéhez.

Anno Domini — Roku Pána — Urunk születése után: Milánovo osimprava vavojovo servio

Annus et dies Rok a deň Éve és napja	Baptisati — Pokrsteného A kereszteltének		Sexus pohlavie neme	legitimitas zakonnosť törvényesség	Parentum nomen, eorum Conditio et Religio Rodíčov meno, stav a vierovyznanie a rodzstvo. A szülőknek neve, polgári állása és vallása	Locus Domi- cili et Nr. Domus Bydlisko a číslo domu Lakhely és házszám	Patrinorum nomen, eorum Conditio Krstných rodičov meno a stav A keresztelőknek neve és polg. állása	Baptizantis nomen et offi- cium Krstiteľa meno a úrad A keresztelőnek neve és hivatala	Observationes Poznámky Jegyzetek
	Nomen — meno neve	masc. muž. fi							
1885.					Jacobus Slavos		Stephanus Rabolin		
24. 26.	Slava		foem. leg.		Slava		Maria Slavos nem. catolica		
20. Augusti					Maria Rabolin		Maria Slavos nem. catolica		

In quorum maius robur has propria manu subscripias et Sigillo Paroeciali munitas extradedi litteras.

Sig. _____ die _____ Mensis _____ Anno 19 _____
 Túto listinu cieľom hodnoverosi som vlasinoručne podpísal a úradným razítkom oparil.
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 Kelt 19 évi évi hó n.



Mih. Oravec
parochus