

MAGYAR NEWS ONLINE

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A New Beginning

by

Robert Kranyik

During fall, 2006, after much thought and considerable reflection, Joseph Balogh decided that he could no longer publish the Magyar News as we came to know and love it. In the final edition, published in January, 2007, Joseph formally announced his decision, and reminisced regarding his seventeen year experience as editor and publisher, in his article titled "...with a broken heart..." There was palpable sadness among the members of the Hungarian-American community in Southwestern Connecticut who had come to love the Magyar News, and to await eagerly its arrival in the mail, or at the local churches or Drotos (now Gulyas) Market.. An institution in our community had come to an end.

A number of readers began to share feelings about the demise of the Magyar News. We began to discuss possibilities for carrying on the work of the News in some way, shape, or form. There were conversations at the Monday night Hungarian School in Fairfield, conversations over coffee, and lots of telephone calls. Hope was emerging that somehow we might have the Magyar News again in the future.

Several of us had long conversations with Joseph about various possibilities. One day while several of us were having coffee at Fayerweather Yacht Club in Black Rock (the closest thing to a Hungarian yacht club that we know), when Joseph Ull, Assistant Circulation Manager of the printed version of Magyar News, and an electrical engineer, suggested that we consider developing a website. This sounded promising, since

we would have, in effect, an electronic organization which would enable a team to create, communicate, and publish quickly and without having to meet endlessly... This idea of a website seemed to sit well with busy people...

Approached with the idea of a website, Joseph Balogh agreed that it sounded like a good possibility. We spoke with Zsuzsa Lengyel, President of Magyar Studies of America, about possible sponsorship of an electronic Magyar News. She was supportive, and consulted with her Board, which was also in favor. We talked about running the website as an all-volunteer organization. People with computers could simply get on the web to read the Magyar News, and churches, organizations, and grandchildren could download the News for older folks who were not comfortable with computers. And, so, we called together a group of people to explore the idea and to possibly move ahead.

Our first meeting was held on January 15, 2007 at Aqualawn, Kings Highway, Fairfield... Since that time the number of supporters has grown, and steady progress was made through the winter and spring. What you are presently viewing on your screen now is the result of the creativity and effort of a good number of people who feel that the traditions and culture of Hungary, and the interests of the Hungarian-American community need to be preserved, and conveyed to younger generations of Americans. Joseph Balogh once wrote an article about why Hungarians are so smart. Then I found out that Hungary has more Nobel Prize winners for its size than any other country. The work of our community has demonstrated the fine qualities of our people, and why we are proud of ourselves and our culture.

I have already mentioned that Joseph Balogh will stay on as editor, albeit with

a much lighter workload. Karolina Szabo enthusiastically volunteered to serve as a webmaster, and will be assisted by Joseph Ull and Paul Soos. Erika Papp Faber, Judit Paolini, Oliver Valu and yours truly will serve as the editorial board, assisting Joseph... Eliz Kakas and Eva Hlacs have volunteered to do a regular feature on Hungarian cooking (for those of our readers who don't know, Eliz teaches Hungarian cooking at the Fairfield Evening School, and Eva Hlacs is the former proprietor of Pearl of Budapest, which was a superb Hungarian restaurant in Fairfield.) Dennis Rich of the Hungarian School, an expert on philately, will do a regular feature on Hungarian stamps, and what they tell us about Hungarian history and culture. Vic Berecz, a well known Hungarian genealogy expert will write monthly about how to find your Hungarian roots, a subject of much interest among our younger Hungarian-Americans. Dr. Alexander Havadtoy, beloved pastor emeritus of the Calvin Church in Fairfield, has agreed to write for us periodically as a contributing editor... Dr. Gyula Egervary, founder of Magyar Studies of America, and leader of the successful effort to erect a memorial effort to erect a memorial to the 1956 Revolution, now in place in Kaposvar, Hungary, is supportive of our effort, and hopes that we will have at least one article each month in the Magyar tongue.

We are also looking forward to having regular news about our precious Hungarian School in Fairfield, provided by Aniko Dowell and the staff. And, since there are so many fascinating stories out there about the Hungarian-American community, we encourage other writers and the readers of Magyar News Online to submit their articles for our consideration.

Zita Balogh, who so effectively

supported the Magyar News, stepped in and immediately started working on the financial aspects of Magyar News Online. Zoltan Domoki, a computer expert, offered us much valuable advice regarding the creation of a website. Carl Dickman, a former Fairfield Selectman and member of the Connecticut Legislature is constantly using his computer skills to dredge up valuable information and photographs for the website. Attorney Joan Farcus generously supported our new project, and was able to obtain the legal advice we needed for this venture by putting us in touch with Mr. Charles Costello, a legal expert in the field of electronic publishing.

Finally, (I am looking over my shoulder, hoping that I have not left anyone out!), we are very indebted to Mr. Andy McCallihan of the Connecticut Post, who volunteered his time to create the website which you are now viewing. We hereby proclaim him an honorary Hungarian!

At a point in time, I thanked Karolina Szabo for one of the many things she has done to move the work of the committee ahead. She replied, "Bob, you don't have to thank me. We all do this for the same reason!"

And, that is the truth...

Karolyi Park: Dedicated to Fairfield's Hungarians

Robert D. Kranyik, Ph.D.

The Settlement

Since the turn of the 20th century, Fairfield, Connecticut has had a significant population of Hungarians: Hungarian immigrants, American Hungarians, and Americans of Hungarian descent. In a time of severe economic difficulties and repression in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, millions of inhabitants of the empire left to settle in the United States. Some came to find work, and when they had earned what they would have considered a princely sum in the old country, re-

turned home to continue their lives as before but with additional resources. Most, however, came not only for economic opportunity, but with the desire to become Americans.

For many of these immigrants, the door to the United States led through Ellis Island. Once they had satisfied the authorities that they were in good health, had a contact in the United States, and enough money to get to where the contact lived, off they went to start their new lives in America. Large numbers of Hungarians and other ethnic groups from the Austro-Hungarian Empire traveled to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York State, and Connecticut. In Connecticut the largest settlement was in Bridgeport, then one of the busiest industrial centers in the nation. The Hungarians settled in the West End of Bridgeport, between Black Rock Harbor and the railroad, in an area which became known as "Hunktown". They later spread out to the more northerly part of the west end, and over into the beautiful Black Rock section, which lay on Black Rock Harbor, and overlooked Long Island Sound.

"Hunktown", itself, was a busy community of tenements, small businesses, churches, saloons, and stores. Since the factories were nearby, the recent immigrants lived in these tenements, often as boarders at first, and partook of the cultural and economic life of the area. Until shortly after World War II, Hungarian was as common a language there as was English. One could imagine, when walking down Bostwick Avenue, Wordin Avenue, Pine Street, Cherry Street, or Spruce Street that he or she was still in the old country. I still have vivid memories of attending the Holy Trinity Byzantine Rite Catholic Church on Bostwick Avenue, going to Hungarian pageants and musical programs in the church center, and going hand-in-hand with my grandmother, Agnes, to a Hungarian clothier on Spruce Street to buy a sheepskin coat. She thought that every young Hungarian-American boy should have a sheepskin coat. The problem was that most of the other boys did not. So, I wore it essentially to please her.

It was the goal of many Hungarian

immigrants to save enough money to buy a piece of land in the country, where they could go on a Sunday to plant a garden, cook their goulash over an open fire, and eventually build a house. For many of them, the country was in Fairfield, just over the Bridgeport line. In those days, Fairfield was a small colonial town although it had played a significant role in the history of Connecticut from 1639 onward. It had a considerable amount of hilly, rocky land, some forest, and some pasture land. It was a land developer's dream. And, so various entrepreneurs, many of them Hungarians, themselves, bought up large parcels of land, and subdivided them into many plots. The plots were usually small, in some cases 25 by 100 feet, or 50 by 100 feet, and usually purchasable for a small down payment and a small weekly payment. The terms offered enabled many immigrants to purchase their place in the country.

This was important to them, for among other reasons, they had been farmers back in Hungary.

Some of the well known developments to which Hungarian immigrants flocked were places like Villa Park, Lenox Heights, Castle Park, and Winona Park, all named in a sense to sell the sizzle as well as the small steak. On June 6, 1914, three successful immigrants John Dezso, John Renchy, and Samuel Greenbaum developed a tract of land off Holland Hill Road, near Black Rock Turnpike which they named Karolyi Park, after Count Mihaly Karolyi, a national hero to the immigrants, because he had distributed his land in Hungary to the farmers. Such a name was bound to attract immigrants and their hard earned dollar bills.

During the period from about 1914 to World War II, settlers poured into Karolyi Park, most often from the West End. They were not all strictly Hungarian, but they came for the most part from the Austro Hungarian empire. The Hungarians in Karolyi Park generally attended either the Calvin Church, Hungarian Reformed, or St. Emery's Roman Catholic Church. A few, like my family, made the trip down to the "West End" area to attend Holy Trinity Byzantine Rite Church on Bostwick Avenue. And, many of the children attended the nearby McKinley



The Pigeon Club Becomes a Small Park

A parcel of land at the corner of Jennings Road and Hunyadi Avenue had been, for many years, the site of a pigeon fanciers' club, where members met to discuss the raising and racing of pigeons, a strong interest among some of the immigrant groups in Fairfield.

Eventually membership dwindled, and the property became overgrown. A neighbor, Anna Nelson, who lives in one of the most historic houses in the area, the General Gold Selleck Silliman house, led the effort to have the property preserved as a park, assisted by other neighbors living nearby. They succeeded in convincing the Town of Fairfield to purchase the property to serve as a mini-park. These good people even donated their own money to provide for landscaping and trees. An interesting sidelight is that General Silliman, who originally lived in Anna Nelson's house, was kidnapped by British troops who broke into his house during the American Revolution. He was taken across Long Island Sound to Long Island, where he was held prisoner. So, the park stands across the street from another historical place.

The question of naming the park now came up. Zoli Kassay, a classmate and friend of mine, felt strongly that the park should be named after the development in which it was located, as a reminder of the Hungarian and other settlers from the Austro-Hungarian empire. Frank Onder, who grew up on Baros Street, agreed. They asked me for my opinion, and I concurred wholeheartedly. Frank and Zoli were able to convince the Fairfield Park and Recreation Commission to name it Karolyi Park, after the development which itself honored Count Karolyi.

So, on a cold evening in December, 2006, the Park was dedicated by Fairfield Town Officials. Virtually all of those who had helped save the land, and to beautify it as a park were there. A new sign was placed on the side facing Jennings Road, and there was a fine article in one of the local newspapers. Unfortunately, several of us were not able to

School on Knapps Highway where I was also a student. The Karolyi Park settlement remained quite stable until sometime after World War II, when the post-war recovery took place, children grew up and moved away, and the original settlers, now elderly, began to diminish in number.

The Kassay family typified the settlers of Karolyi Park. Frank Kassay and his wife Anna Galdun moved to Karolyi Park in the mid 1920's, and survived the Great Depression by living in their converted barn, raising animals, and growing their own vegetables. Helen Kassay Olah recalled that their pigs provided ham, porkchops, bacon, and that Hungarian favorite, "szalonna". She also recalled that they raised fruit trees and all types of vegetables, with everyone pitching in to weed, hoe, and pick insects off the plants. As the economy grew, Frank and Anna built a new house nearby, where my friend Zoli, his brother Steve, and sister Barbara were born. John Kassay still lives on part of the old property, and has a large garden that would make his parents proud. The old barn was torn down about two years ago to make way for a new home for John's daughter. That story was in the April, 2003 edition of the Magyar News.

Frank Onder recalled the annual slaughter of pigs in Karolyi Park, to provide families with ham, pork chops, szalonna, teperto, and some of the makings of kolbasz. It was always a community affair with neighbors helping neighbors to catch and immobilize the pigs, administer the coup-de-gras, remove the skin and hair, and cut up the various portions of meat. Frank noted that the process was always helped along by plentiful supply of whiskey. At times, pigs were granted a temporary reprieve when they succeeded in escaping. One got as far as the Kish farm, where residents chased it around and among the cows and horses in the fields, before it was captured again.

Many of the residents were recent immigrants, and Frank recalled the Halloween night when the two Moritz boys, dressed as devils, came to the front door for "trick or treat". Frank's dad went to the door, opened it, and draw back frightened at the two devils who stared back at him. He then shouted at them and pushed them away. You see, he was not aware of the custom of Hallowe'en night, and the experience of meeting up with two devils was quite upsetting then.



Fairfield Town workers set the stone .

be present due to our attendance at the Connecticut State Capital for a ceremony honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.

But, Zoli, Frank and I discussed the matter further. We felt that in this town with many historical plaques attached to glaciated boulders and commemorating historical events, some going back to well before the War for Independence, there should be a permanent monument in Karolyi Park to honor the many Hungarian settlers of the area. Our idea was to find a really appropriate stone, and to have a bronze plaque attached to it. Again, the Fairfield Park and Recreation Commission agreed to help.

We prepared a draft of the message to be cast into the bronze plaque, and it was approved by the Commission. The plaque read:

Karolyi Park

Dedicated to the memory of the many Hungarian immigrants who settled in this part of Fairfield known as Karolyi Park and in nearby areas in the early years of the twentieth century. Together

with their descendants they have contributed much to the cultural, economic, social and political life of our Town. Count Mihaly Karolyi von Nagykárolyi served as a prime minister and later president of Hungary in the aftermath of World War I and was regarded as an Hungarian national hero by the new immigrants.

October 15, 2006

On another cold winter day Zoli, Frank and I were invited down to the Town of Fairfield Public Works area to pick out a stone. We also invited Anna Nelson, but she was unable to be with us that day. After much searching, we located a particularly attractive stone which one of the workers kindly had taken down to level ground where he power washed it. We were impressed by the stone, and the Town officials agreed to have the bronze plaque cast, and attached on to the stone. A few weeks later we received a message that everything was ready and that the new stone and plaque would be installed.

On still another cold day Frank, Zoli, and I greeted the work crew and helped

guide the stone to its appropriate resting place in a corner of the park. The tribute to our Hungarians was now in place.

There is one more job to be done, and that is the dedication of the plaque. We are hoping to have that ceremony later this year, when the flowers will be in bloom. We look forward to music (how can Hungarians have any ceremony without music?), prayers, some short speeches, and hopefully, many recollections by those who grew up in this very Hungarian corner of Fairfield.

To pique your interest, I have listed below many of the surnames of people who lived in the area of Karolyi Park in 1940. Maybe you will find someone in your family, or perhaps a friend.

Robert D. Kranyik

May 2007

Surnames of Some Residents of the Karolyi Park Area in 1940

Ando, Bahe, Beres, Biro, Bodnar, Bognar, Boros, Busser, Chisz-mazia, Csogy, Csontos, Csuga, Dakai, Demcsak, Deri, Dombi, Ducsay, Egeressy, Eles, Farkas, Fezekas, Fekete, Figlar, Filemon, Foytho, Gero, Hajas, Haydu, Istvan, Jacksis, Jestreby, Kassay, Kerekes, Kertes, Kish, Klein, Koczy, Komenda, Koolisz, Kostan, Kozma, Kranyik,



Krozsar, Kulesar, Liptak, Medvegy, Nagy, Nemeth, Nemets, Onder, Orszag, Papp, Racz, Racszak, Raveis, Risko, Roman, Sarkocz, Sisko, Skultety, Smey, Szabo, Szabocsan, Szekeres, Sulek, Szost, Tabory, Takacs, Tilk, Tivador, Toth, Tuba, Varady, Vayda, Varjas, Vecsey, Vegi, Virag, Wargo, Wisar, Youhouse (Juhasz), Zlatar.

SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR

Eliz Kakas

Fél úton Budapest és Balaton között található meg egyik legősibb városunk Székesfehérvár [Alba Regia], évszázadokon át fontos történelmi jelentőségű városunk, sok látnivalót kínál az oda látogatóknak. Székesfehérvárt nevezhetnénk a templomok városának is. Szent István uralkodása alatt épült fel a bazilika, mely öt évszázadon keresztül koronázási, majd temetkezési helye is lett királyainknak.

Említésre méltó a Nepomuki Szent János templom, mely Barok Stílusban épült, melyben megtalálható Sambach oltárfestménye az 1750-es évekből.

1470-ben épült a Szent Anna kápolna, a



város egyedüli épen maradt középkori épülete. A Székesegyház, melyben V. Fischer oltárfestményei, J.I. Cimbal freskói láthatók. Megsodálható a Karmelita templom, melyben a XVIII. század mesterek munkái találhatók. Az 1776-os évekből Garabovan és Popovity ikonfestők munkája díszíti a Keresztelő Szent János templomot.

A főtéren helyezkedik el a Püspöki Palota az Országalma és a középkori Romkert. A romkerti mauzoleum kőkoporsója, feltételezések szerint Szent István szarkofágja. A belváros sétáló utcáiban megtaláljuk a Vörösmarty Színházat, virágórát, Csók István képtárat, muzeumokat, éttermeket és ajándékboltokat.

A külvárosban érdemes meglátogatni a Bory-várt, Bory Jenő szobrászművész és építész mérnök alkotását a XX. századból. A vár bástyái, szobrai, festményei sok érdekes látnivalót nyújtanak minden korosztálynak és a romantikát kedvelőknek. Kivánok kellemes városnézést!

SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR

Translated by Karolina Szabo

Midway between Budapest and the Lake Balaton lies one of Hungary's oldest cities Székesfehérvár [Alba Regia], which over centuries was a very important historical centrum; it offers many places of interest. One could call it a City of Churches. The Basilica was built during the reign of Saint Steven, and for five centuries it was the city of coronation and later the burial place of many kings.



A Bory-var

The Church of Saint John of Nepomuk was built in Baroque style, where you can see Sambach's altar piece from the 1750-s. In 1470 the Saint Anna chapel was built. The only building that is intact from the middle ages. In the Cathedral you can find V. Fisher's altar pieces and J. I. Cimbal's frescos. Garabovan and Popovity icon painters works adorns the John the Baptist church, built in 1776.

The Bishop's Palace, the Country's Apple and the middle age era Garden of Ruins are located in the main square of the city. In the mausoleum of the Garden of Ruins (Romkert) the stone coffin, presumably saint Steven's sarcophagus. In the inner city are the Vorosmarty Theater, the flower clock, Istvan Csok Art Gallery, museums, restaurants and many gift shops.

In the outer city it would be worth your time to visit the Bory fortress, Jeno Bory sculptor and architect's masterpiece from the XX. century. The bastions, statues and paintings in the fortress provide many found memories to all ages. Enjoy your visit in Szekeshervar!

Your Roots in Historic Hungary by Vic Berecz

What is the purpose of this column? Almost everyone would like to learn more about his or her family history. Whether your ancestors were rich or poor, heroes or scoundrels ... or all of the above ... it doesn't matter. You are probably spurred on, as I am, by the joy of the quest. The goal of this column is to provide you with pointers that will assist you in your quest for *Your Roots in Historic Hungary*. In each issue of *Magyar News Online*, I will try to focus on one matter of wide concern when tracing your roots. It may be a topic of my choosing, an answer to a reader's question, or a suggestion from the Editorial Board. If you have questions or suggestions for future issues, send them to me at Vic@Berecz.us -- I'm looking forward to your inputs.



Why Historic Hungary? Hungary before World War I was a large nation covering much of what we now call *central Europe*. It was an anomaly in 19th century Europe. It was independent, but shared a monarch and some governmental functions with Austria. But, unlike Austria and most of Europe, it was a multi-ethnic society with substantial religious diversity and freedom. It included Magyars (in the U.S. usually called *Hungarians*), Slovaks, Romanians, Germans, Ruthenes, and several other ethnicities. While the majority was Roman Catholic, there were many Reformed, Lutheran, Orthodox, and Jewish citizens of historic Hungary. Between 1895 and 1914, over two million of these people immigrated to the United States. They included all four of my grandparents, and probably many of your ancestors as well.

What can you expect to find in tracing your ancestors? Many of you can be successful in tracing your ancestry back to the early 1800s in historic Hungary ... depending on your age, that's 4-to-7 generations. And, I'm talking about being able to do it for very modest cost right here in the U.S. Some of you may even be successful back to the early 1700s, as I have been. It is rare to be able to go back much further than that.

What resources will I be discussing? Depending on your personal situation, your starting point in finding your roots in Hungary may be people, photos, or documents within your own family. But, the key resource available here the U.S. that will let you go back deep into the 19th century is the LDS (Mormon) Church's *Family History Library* microfilms. These microfilms are being scanned and indexed for Internet access, but it will be several years before they are online. For now, the films can be viewed directly at any local *Family History Center* (FHC). Another resource that you may find useful is my *Hungarian Family History Tutorial* that you will find on the Internet at www.berecz.us/tutorial. Additionally, many other Internet resources including the *Ellis Island Website* may be involved in your search. Now let's get started.

1. Starting the Search for Your Roots.

There was no civil registration of births, marriages, or deaths in Hungary before October 1895. Until then, only the churches recorded this *vital data*. From 1828 until 1895 the government required every church and synagogue to prepare duplicate copies of these records ... one

being sent to the national archives in Budapest. The *Family History Library* microfilmed these archived records for the churches in the area of modern Hungary in the 1960s. Subsequently, church records for some other areas of historic Hungary were also filmed. The FHL has over 10,000 rolls of microfilm of these records. That is why so many Hungarian-Americans can find their roots back to the early 1800's with relative ease.

The starting points for your search are your ancestors who emigrated to the U.S. For most of us, those immigrant ancestors arrived in New York or Philadelphia between 1895 and 1914. Since most of them were born before 1895, their births will be in those microfilmed records. To get that first foothold in the records, **you need four pieces of information about each person** you want to investigate. These are:

1. **Their name – both given name and family name.**
2. **Their approximate year of birth – preferably no later than 1895.**
3. **The town or city in historic Hungary in which they were born. Their religion.**

Once you have these four bits of information, you can start the search in microfilmed copies of the original historic Hungarian records. Many of you are already familiar with this information because it came to you from the immigrants themselves, or was passed on to you by your non-immigrant parents. Others will have to search for it using American resources. Those whose immigrant ancestors arrived more recently, and therefore were likely not born before 1895, will have to get back to that threshold using family records or Hungarian records. This may not be as difficult as it sounds, since your contacts with relatives in Hungary are likely much more recent.

Name: you probably know the names of your immigrant ancestors. But, be careful because spelling of family names may have changed and given names were usually Americanized. If you don't know the names, talk as soon as possible with the oldest living family members. They can be a useful resource for this and other data. Make sure you know the maiden (birth) name of women – that is ordinarily

what was used in Hungarian records throughout their lifetime.

Year of Birth: possible sources in the U.S. include tombstones, obituaries, death certificates, various family papers, the *Ellis Island Website*, or the 1920 or 1930 *US Census*.

Town of Birth: this may be the most difficult piece of data to find; again obituaries, death certificates, and personal papers are good if you have them available. Otherwise, the *Ellis Island Website* may be your best hope.

Religion: it may be the same as yours! But, religious affiliations do change over a few generations, especially when mixed marriages are involved. Remember that most of the immigrants to the U.S. from historic Hungary were Roman Catholic, Reformed, Jewish, Greek Catholic, Lutheran, or Orthodox – *in that order*. Many Protestant denominations found in the U.S. did not exist in 19th century Hungary – so if you now attend a Methodist church, believe me ... that was not your immigrant ancestor's religion.

Even if you have found these four key pieces of information about your immigrant ancestors, there's no guarantee of success. There are some parts of historic Hungary where the church records in the FHL are few and far between. This is certainly the case for churches now in Romania or the Ukraine. But, even immigrants coming from Hungary's largest city – Budapest – have a problem. Budapest was so large that many churches of each denomination existed. So unless you know which neighborhood in Budapest your ancestors lived in, it will be difficult to locate the church records. But, Budapest was growing and prospering. It was the north of Hungary that was economically depressed. Therefore the small towns and villages of the north produced the most emigrants to America. That's why I maintain that many of you will be successful at tracing your roots back to the early 19th century in historic Hungary.

Next: Using the Ellis Island Website.



PLEASURE FOR THE EYES FOR THE EARS FOR THE SOUL

by Joseph F. Balogh



Nagy Ibolya

Before I start with the good part, let me recall memories that go back to the time when I was a photojournalist with the *Élet és Tudomány*.

I was assigned to Szombathely, a city near the western border of Hungary with a population around 70,000. Originally it was established 1800 years ago. Then the Mongols destroyed it and in the roman occupation it was named Savaria.

Naturally it was rebuilt and in due time churches were built. Its old cathedral was the center of my visit. I was trying to get a picture that shows its connection with the city. I went around, and really not too far I found the water tower. This gave me the advantage of a flying bird. Nobody was around so I took the liberty to make decisions for myself.

Up I went on the ladder, bringing me to the walkway that circled the globe holding the water. My eye was concentrating on the cathedral and paid no attention to the rest of the world. Wrong decision!

In a few minutes I heard gunshots. First I found it strange, then I went around to



Wallingford Hungarian Club had a music event, The Music of Vienna & Budapest. The Burai Sandor Gypsy Band was playing, and a soprano was singing. The singer was Ibolya Nagy. And by this time my dear reader you guessed that she was from Szombathely and she was beautiful. She proved everything mentioned in the title of this article. For the eye; you can't figure a better looking lady. For the ear; she performed the highest quality of singing you ever heard. For the soul; the well known songs of the old country made our heart beat faster, and in our souls we sang along. What an experience it was!

We should know something about Ibolya Nagy. I looked up the internet (www.nagyibolya.hu) and among others this is what I found.

She came to this world in the quiet, peaceful and pleasant city of Szombathely, and lived there till the age of 18. During this time of growing up she had many experiences that formed her towards her present occupation. At the age of 9 she already sang solo in the choir of the Educational College. They took part in many competitions and festivals within Hungary and abroad. In the mean time she was studying violin and piano. Attending a music school brought her to be more serious about music.

Following was the enrollment of the Debrecen Musical College. Ibolya studied solo singing and music theory. This time she got her experience in theater and stage work. First as students they were at

the Csokonai Theater and during larger productions she was in the choir and helping out other ways. It was good fun and excitements and they were even paid for it. She was overwhelmed listening to Puccini, Verdi, Mascagni operas, and the outstanding Kalman and Lehár pieces. I felt it penetrating my body, she said, and I knew that this is what I want.

After receiving her diploma she was hired by the Miskolc National Theater. There she performed singing and also playing in non musicals the star role. Her real love was for the operetta where both were together.

She was invited to many other theaters, feeling respected, having a great experience, and facing the demand. Then as a freelancer she had many roles as an actress, and singer. Presently, she sings most of the time at the Interoperett Concerts at the Belvarosi Theater. In recent years she had many tours in foreign countries, including the United States.

Some of us were lucky to have her at the Wallingford Hungarian Club fully enjoying her beauty, her singing, everything was heart felt. We all hope to see her soon.

Joseph F. Balogh

investigate. More shots sounded, and now I could look towards the source. From the backside of the tower I saw Soviet soldiers running towards the tower. Still some shots were fired. I put up my hands and with some hopeful sign language I tried to show that I am coming down. I noticed that there were some buildings there, barracks with soldiers around. I knew that I was in a bad situation.

With my hands up I slowly went down the ladder. I caught my breath when I saw local police on the ground. Fortunately they took over, but the Soviets followed us a short distance. All this time I was thinking of the Mongols. A police held me by my arm, there was no talking. We ended up at the station where I had to answer questions and show my ID papers and the assignment document. They were nice but I still remember this with a bad feeling.

Here in the States I changed my view of Szombathely. First a young lady joined our community. She is a dancer, internationally known from the competition in the latin style. She is Takacs Gabriella and she came from Szombathely. Not only was her dance beautiful, but she is an outstanding beauty herself. Naturally she was also teaching dance. Now she does it in a limited way because her little baby has to get the attention. I asked her if all the girls in Szombathely are so beautiful, well, she just laughed.

This spring I was convinced that my question was valid. The HCSC in the

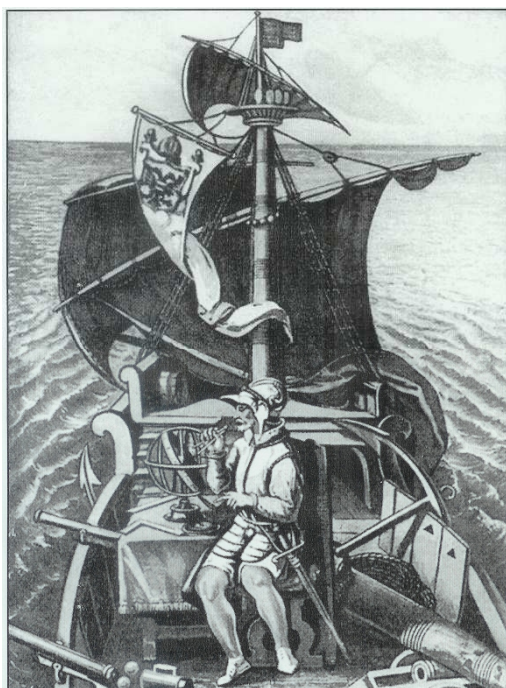


Szombathelyi látkép a víztornyóból.

Did you know...?

<http://www.magyarnews.org/photos/File77.jp>

that the first Hungarian to set foot in the New World was an artillery officer named Varga Janos, who had sailed with Magellan and landed at what later developed into - Rio de Janeiro in December 1519? The next Hungarian to arrive was budai Parmenius Istvan, who sailed with Sir Humphrey Gilbert and landed at Newfoundland in 1583.



St Ladislaus Church, at 25 Cliff Street in South Norwalk, is celebrating its 100th year with a PIG ROAST on Sunday, June 24, 2007.

The PIG ROAST will be on from Noon to 4:00 p.m. and for a donation of \$20.00 adult or \$5.00 child (10 years old and under), you get all you can eat, including hotdogs and hamburgers, salad, and goulash. Soft drinks are included.

Advanced tickets are encouraged and can be obtained by calling Paul or Debbie Soos at 655-2782 or by email paul@magyarnews.org

St Ladislaus Parish was established one hundred years ago by Hungarian immigrants and this PIG ROAST is part of a year long celebration that will culminate with a dinner dance in October 2007.

We invite our friends, neighbors, and former parishioners to join us on Sunday, June 24. Visit our website at: www.StLadislaus.com for information and directions.

COME CELEBRATE OUR 100TH YEAR!
ST. LADISLAUS CHURCH
1907 - 2007



PIG ROAST
Búcsú
(Patron Saint Festival)

Sunday, June 24, 2007
Noon to 4:00p.m.
25 Cliff Street
Norwalk, CT 06854

*All you can eat (or until we run out) menu:
roasted pig, hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, etc...
and of course, our HOMEMADE GULYÁS!*

\$20.00 Adult Donation
\$ 5.00 Child Donation (under ten years old)
Soft drinks included

**For tickets please call Paul/Debbie Soos at: 203-655-2782 or visit our website at:
<http://www.stladislaus.com/>**