

## The emigration story of Ana Horvat and Marija Horvat from Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (Hungary)

### (Tibor Horvat's grandaunts)

**Ana Horvat (Anna Horváth)** was born in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (Hungary) in 1894 and she was one of 4 siblings. Her sister Marija Horvat was also born in Števanovci, in 1893. They had two brothers: Jožef Horvat and Kalman Horvat who both remained in Števanovci.

The parents of these 4 siblings were Ana Dončec and Karel (Károly) Horvat and they had a small farmhouse in Števanovci. Karel (Károly) Horvat was a carpenter and also a farmer. In Števanovci all farmhouses have their own names and the farmhouse, where the two sisters Ana and Marija Horvat were born and raised was called Šporeni.



**Ana Dončec**

**Karel Horvat**

**The parents of Marija (Mary) Horvat and Ana (Anna) Horvat  
Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (Hungary)**



**Marija Horvat's and Ana Horvat's brother  
Jožef Horvat wearing the uniform of the  
Austro-Hungarian Empire (around 1912)**

In the beginning of the 20th century, life was very hard in Števanovci. The economic situation was bad and therefore, many inhabitants of Števanovci emigrated to the USA in search for a better life, and so did the two sisters Ana and Marija Horvat.

Ana Horvat emigrated to the USA in 1910. Her sister Marija Horvat had emigrated to the USA one year before and lived in Steelton, PA. For that reason, Ana Horvat went directly to Steelton, PA. But later she moved to Bethlehem, PA, where she worked at the Tobacco factory and where she got to know her future husband Sándor (Alexander) Domjan as well. Sándor (Alexander) Domjan was a butcher who originated also in Hungary (probably from the Rédic region). They married in 1914.

**Wedding of Ana (Anna) Horvat and Sándor (Alexander) Domján  
1914 in Pennsylvania**



**Ferencz (Frank) Marija Horvat Sándor (Alex) Ana Horvat  
Doncsecz Domján**

In the beginning of the 20th century, primarily the women from the Slovene Raba Region in Hungary couldn't speak Hungarian. Their mother tongue was Porabian, a dialect of the Slovenian language which is often referred to as „Windish“ in Bethlehem, PA. Besides their Slovenian mother tongue, the men could often speak Hungarian too because they had to serve in the Hungarian army, where they learned the language.

It is known that Ana Horvat used to communicate with her husband in Slovenian. It is not clear if her husband Sándor (Alexander) was also of Slavic origin (Croat or Slovak) or if he was an ethnic Hungarian. However, it is certain that he had to learn the Slovenian language to be able to communicate with his wife Ana.

Later they moved to Anawalt, WV, because Sándor (Alexander) Domján had the possibility to earn more money in the coal mines. Their first child, Jessie Domyan, was born in Anawalt, WV in 1915. He was a coal miner and died in 1992. Their second son was also born in Anawalt, WV, where he died at the age of 84 as a retired coal miner. He was also a U.S. Air Force veteran serving in WWII. They had 5 children: Frank Domyan, Jessie Domyan, Mary Domyan, Goldie Domyan and Ann Domyan.



Jessie



Frank



Mary



Goldie

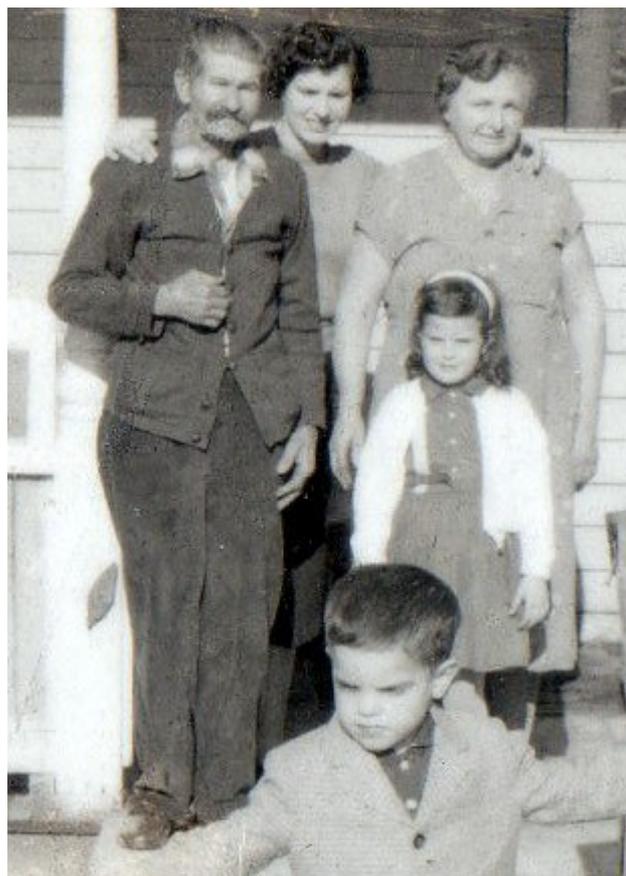


Ann

**The children of Ana (Anna) Horvat and Sándor (Alexander) Domján**



Ana (Anna) Horvat-Domján with her son Frank Domyan and her daughter Ann Domyan (In the 1930's in WV)



Sándor (Alexander) Domján and Ana (Anna) Horvat with their daughter Ann and their grandchildren Kathy and John (around 1960 in VW)



Ana Horvat-Domyan with her daughters Goldie (left side), Mary (right side) and Ann (at the front) (In the 1970's in WV)

Ana Horvat and Sándor (Alexander) Domján are buried in West Virginia where Ana Horvat died in 1976 and Sándor (Alex) Domján in 1962.



**Grave of Ana and Sándor Domján in WV**

Ana Horvat's sister **Marija Horvat (Mária Horváth)** married in Harrisburg, PA in 1911. **Ferencz (Frank) Doncsics**, who was born in Slovenska Ves/Rábatótfalu (Hungary) in 1888 and was also an ethnic Slovene from the Raba Region in Hungary. Ferencz (Frank) Doncsics emigrated 1905 at the age of 17 to his brothers Jožef (Joe) Doncsics and Karoly Doncsics who lived in South Bethlehem, PA, where he found himself a job at the Bethlehem Steel Company. His brothers Joe and Karoly had emigrated to South Bethlehem, PA already in 1903. It is most likely that Marija (Mary) Horvat got to know him in Bethlehem, PA where she had moved to from Steelton, PA to work at the cigarette factory together with her younger sister Ana Horvat. The two sisters' first residence in the USA was Steelton, PA because an uncle of theirs, Ferencz (Frank) Horvath, had emigrated to Steelton, PA with his family around 1904. Also another uncle of Marija and Ana Horvat, Matyás Horvath lived with his wife Kristina and their three children Oszkar, Matyas and Etel in Steelton, PA. They had emigrated to the U.S. in 1908.

No. on List	NAME IN FULL	Age	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to Read, Write	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	* Race or People	Last Residence (Province, City, or Town)	Final Destination (State, City, or Town)	Whether having a ticket to such final destination	By whom was message paid?	Whether in possession of \$50, and if not, how paid?	Whether over 16 years in the United States, and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friends, and if so, what relative or friend, and his exact and complete address.
1	Antoni Pirazic	18	m. wife	laborer	yes	Hungary	Magyar	Szarvas	Antwerp	no	self	12-06	no	brother, Jozsef Szabados
2	Sandor Molos	25	un					Szarvas	Delray, N.J.	no	self	13-06		brother, Jozsef Szabados
3	Istvan Kanyo	46	m. wife		yes					no	self	12-06		brother, Jozsef Szabados
4	Ferencz Doncsics	16	un					Totfalu	St. Bethlehem	no	self	12-13		brother, Jozsef Szabados
5	Janos Kamencs	28	m. wife							no	self	12-14		brother, Jozsef Szabados
6	Egyebet Kocsis	25	un		yes					no	self	12-12		brother, Jozsef Szabados
7	Ferencz Sot	20	un							no	self	12-06		brother, Jozsef Szabados
8	Domonik Santani	19	un	laborer		Italy	Italian	Antwerp	Antwerp	no	self	12-06		brother, Jozsef Szabados

Ship record of Ferencz (Frank) Doncsics.

**First Name :** Ferencz  
**Last Name :** Doncsics  
**Nationality :** Hungary, Slovenian  
**Last Place of Residence :** Totfalu  
**Date of Arrival :** January 9th, 1905  
**Age at Arrival :** 16y  
**Gender :** Male  
**Marital Status :** Single  
**Ship of Travel :** Zeeland  
**Port of Departure :** Antwerp  
**Manifest Line Number :** 0004

After leaving Ellis Island (the gate to the USA), many immigrants used to settle first in those cities within the USA where their relatives or acquaintances from their villages/towns in Europe lived. That way, their start into a new life was much easier because they got support from their families and acquaintances and in addition to that they felt at home in their communities. Later, once they had familiarized themselves with the American lifestyle and after having learned English, they moved also to other parts in the USA to find work and build up a new life for themselves. Marija (Mary) Horvat and Ferencz (Frank) Doncsecz moved from Pennsylvania to Youngstown, OH after their marriage where their first child Joseph was born in 1914. Also their second child, Frank Paul Donchatz (1915) and their 3rd child Charles (1917) were born in Ohio. Later, they moved to West Virginia too, where Frank Doncsecz had found work in the coal industry, which was booming in McDowell County at that time. In West Virginia, their daughter Helen was born in 1918, their sons Steve, Ernest, Raymond, James and their daughter Marie were also born in West Virginia. It was a big Slovene family from Hungary.



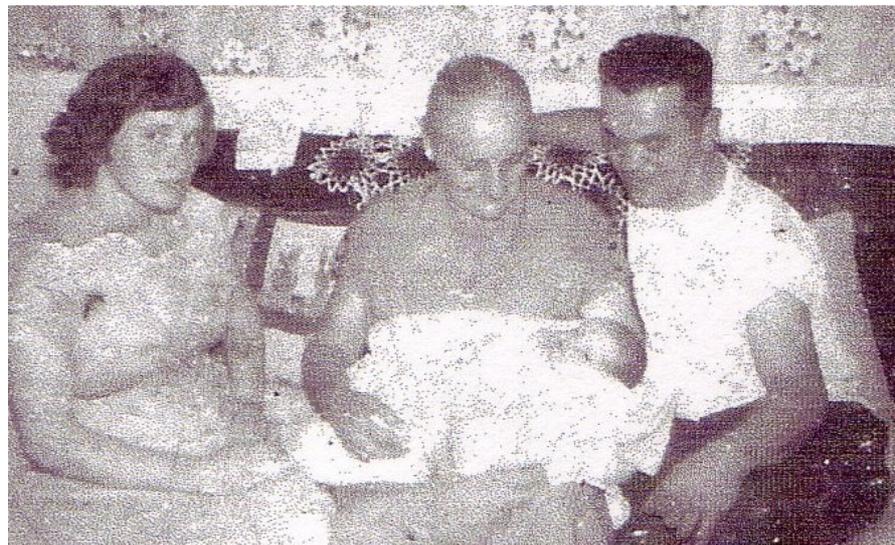
**Marija (Mary) Horvat with one of her children on her lap**



**Marija (Mary) Horvat-Doncsecz and Ferencz (Frank) Doncsecz with their son Ernest Donchatz in WV.**



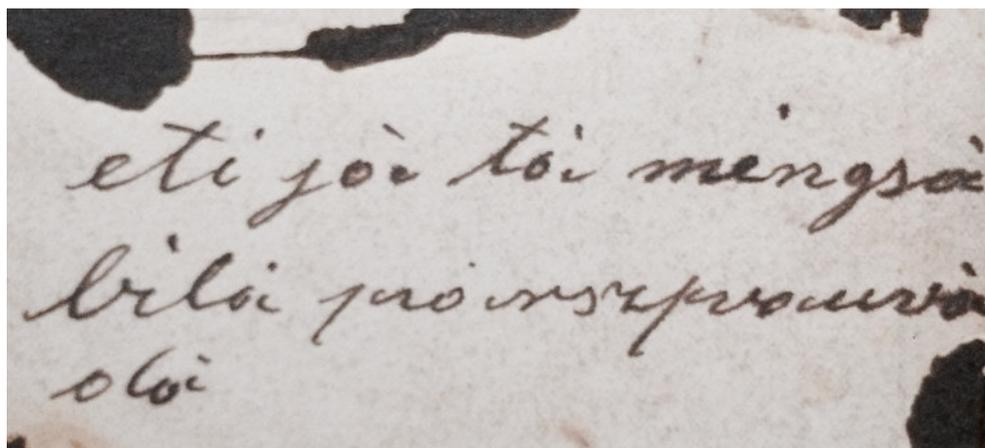
**Marija (Mary) Horvat-Doncsecz with one of her grandchildren, WV**



**Marija (Mary) Horvat-Doncsecz with her grandchild on her lap. On her right side is her son Raymond and on her left side is her daughter-in-law Paula (WV).**

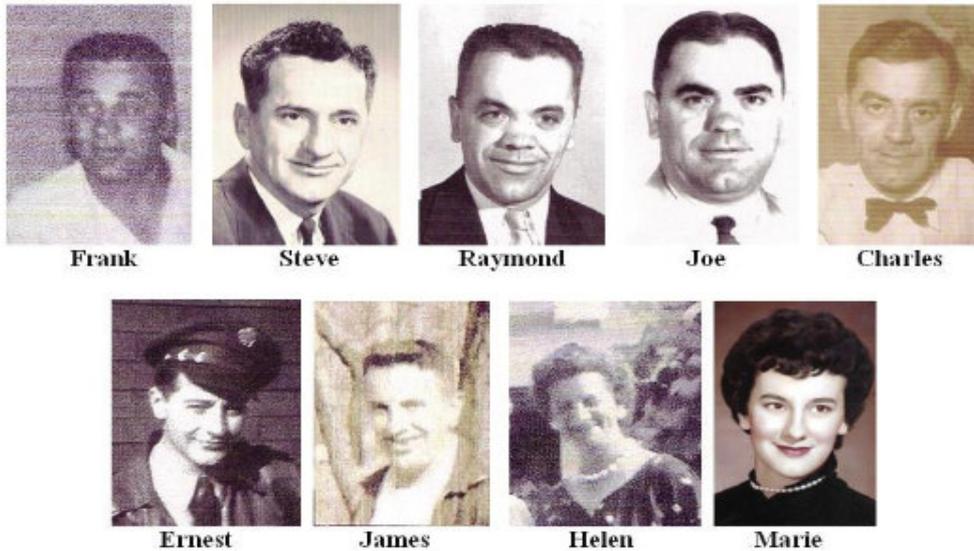


First from the left: Sándor Domján / Second from the right: Ferencz Doncsics



On the reverse of a picture it is said in Porabian-Slovenian ("Windish") and in old Porabian-Slovenian spelling:

"Eti je ta menša bila pri spauveda" (eti je tá méngsá bilá prí szpauvédá)  
which means: "Here was the small girl at her first communion"



**The children of Marija (Mary) Horvat and Ferencz (Frank) Doncsecz**

Marija Horvat and Frank Doncsecz are buried in West Virginia where Marija Horvat died in 1967 and Frank Doncsecz in 1962.



**Grave of Marija and Frank Doncsecz in VW**

Tibor's father, Jenő Horvat, told us that two aunts of his had emigrated to the USA in the early 20th century. He also said that one of his aunts, Ana Horvat and her husband Sándor Domján were also his godparents. He remembers how he used to receive a parcel with modern clothes from his American godparents for christmas when he was still a child. Unfortunately, he didn't know much about his two aunts. In 1957, a sister of Tibor's father emigrated to the USA and contacted these two aunts and lived also two years at their homes in West Virginia.

In 2008, Tibor decided to do family research and to find the descendants of these two aunts of his father. Tibor succeeded in finding the youngest daughter of Ana and Sándor Horvat-Domján, Ann Domyan-DeMarie, and the youngest daughter of Marija and Frank Horvat-Doncsecz. The other children of the two sisters, Ana und Marija Horvat, had unfortunately already passed away. However, Tibor had found a large number of cousins with whom he got in contact afterwards.

In 2009, we went to the USA to visit Tibor's cousins, their families and the first-grade cousins of Tibor's father. It was such an amazing experience to meet the family in the U.S. Everyone was so kind and helpful to us. We would like to thank them all for their warm welcome. We will never forget the wonderful time we spent in the USA with the family!

After 100 years of separation, the family was finally reunited!!!



**Tibor Horvat with his cousin Kathy DeMarie  
(Ana Horvat's granddaughter) in 2009 in the USA**

**Family reunion after 100 years of separation (USA 2009)**



**Ann Domyan-DeMarie, the daughter of Ana Horvat-Domyan  
(in the middle) and Ana's grandchildren Kathy, John,  
Jimmy and Ana's great-grandson Jimmy jr and Ana's great-  
great-granddaughters Emily and Faith**

**Tibor Horvat (3rd from the left), his grandfather Jožef Horvat  
was the brother of Ana Horvat-Domyan**



**Tibor's cousins in West Virginia (USA): Lisa Dillon and Charles Owens below the picture of their grandparents Marija (Mary) Horvat-Doncsecz (Doncsics)**



**Left: Marija (Mary) Horvat and Ferencz (Frank) Donchatz's (Doncsics) youngest daughter Marie Donchatz-Owens  
Right: Lisa Owens-Dillon (child of Marie Owens and grandchild of Marija and Frank Horvat-Donchatz (Doncsics))**