

My Doncsecz – Pinter family

Written by Margaret Pinter McCarthy

Can you imagine the feelings of the many people coming from the Raba region of Hungary to the United States in the late 1800's and the early 1900's – apprehension, fear of the unknown, perhaps loneliness if travelling alone? And, the trip was not an easy one....a long ship ride across the ocean in conditions that were not ideal. But, it was also a trip full of excitement and hope. They persevered and endured. They worked hard when arriving in the United States, finding jobs, creating families, homes, and friendships, as well as reuniting with relatives already here and welcoming those who arrived at a later date.

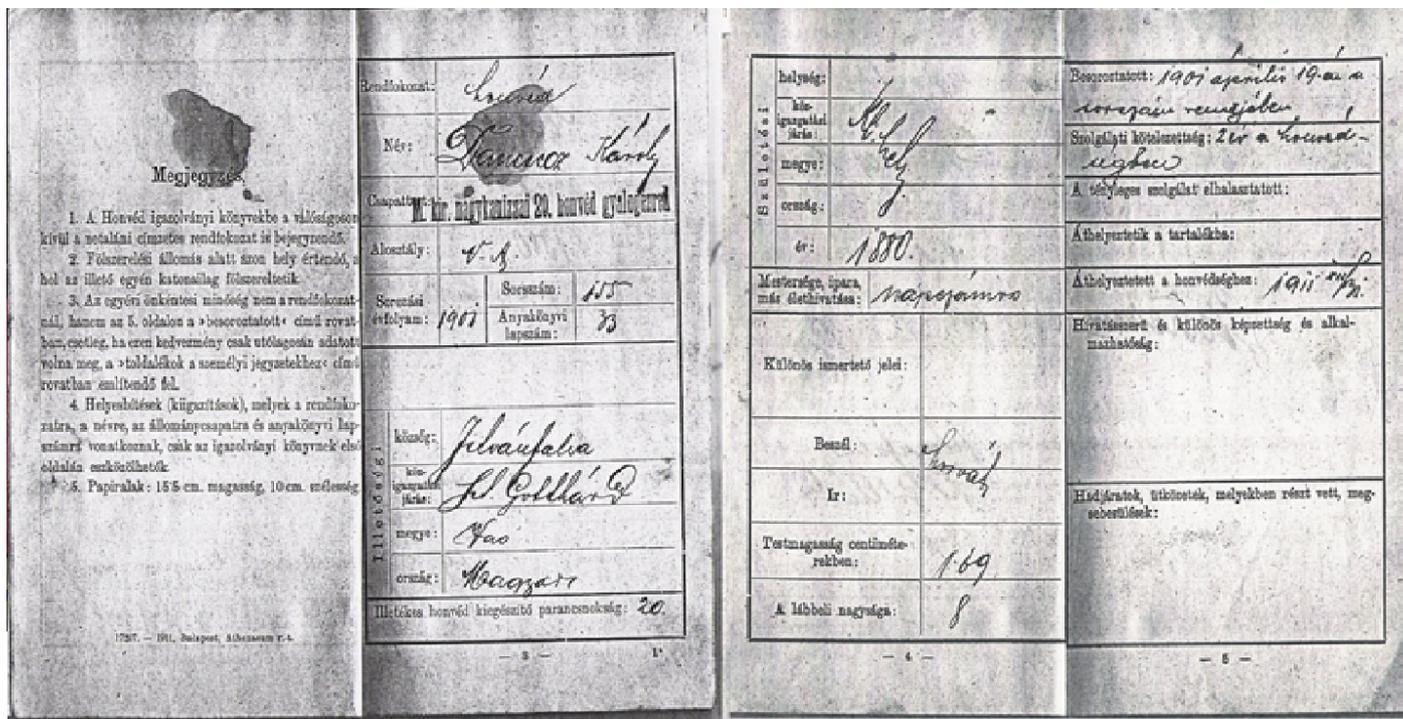
My name is Margaret Pinter McCarthy. I live in Bethlehem, PA, USA. I would like to tell you a little bit about my Windish grandparents who arrived in South Bethlehem at the turn of the century. My grandmother on my father's side was Theresa M. Zampar, the daughter of Janos Zsampar and Anna Domjan Zsampar. My grandmother Theresa M. Zampar was born 1888 in Slovenska Ves/Rábatótfalu (Hungary) and immigrated to the USA in 1905.



Wedding of Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandmother Theresa Zampar with her first husband Charles (Károly) Doncsecz in Bethlehem, PA (1906)

In 1906, she married Karoly Doncsecz, son of Matyas Doncsecz and Terez Horvath Doncsecz. Karoly Doncsecz was born in Kethely in 1880, which is today a part of the town Monošter/Szentgotthard (Hungary). He was Windish too and originated in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva. Karoly Doncsecz came to the USA for the first time in 1902. He made several trips home to Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (in 1904 and in 1910). It was not uncommon that people went home again to support their families or that they commuted between the USA and their homeland. Some immigrants came to the U.S. only for a certain

period of time to earn money and when they needed money again they returned to work in the USA. It is probable that being married to my grandmother Theresa Zampar made him stay in the USA.



The old Hungarian Military book of Charles (Károly) Donchez (Doncsecz). It is written that he lived in Istvánfalu (Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva) Hungary and that he was born in Kethely (Monošter/Szentgotthárd) Hungary. It also shows that he spoke and wrote Croatian (horvát). At that time, very often Slavic ethnicities were not categorized properly. Often Slovenes, Croats and Slovaks were mixed up due to the fact that all these Slavic ethnic groups were Catholics and spoke dialects of Slovenian, Croatian and Slovakian which sounded similar to one another.

Károly Doncsecz and **Theresa Zampar** had four children: Frank Donchez, Mary T. Donchez, Charles F. Donchez, and Anna Donchez. Karoly Doncsecz died from a heart condition in 1912 at the age of 32 and left his wife with four children. Approximately 5 years later, Theresa married my grandfather, **Karoly Pinter**, son of Karoly Pinter and Maria Horvath Pinter. My grandfather Karoly Pinter was born in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (Hungary) in 1888 and immigrated 1905 on the ship "La Gascogne" from Le Havre (France) with 15 \$ in his pocket to the USA. His brother-in-law Jozsef Sömenek was already in Bethlehem, PA to whom Karoly Pinter went. My grandfather had three brothers Frank (Ferencz) Pinter, Matyas Pinter, and Istvan (Stephen) Pinter and three sisters Anna, Rozalia, and Terez Pinter. All his three brothers and one sister of his immigrated to Bethlehem, PA. Frank Pinter married a woman from Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva too. Her name was Thereza Zavecz. My grandfather's sister Rozalia Pinter married 1906 Janos Doncsecz, who was a brother of my grandmother's first husband Karoly Doncsecz. My grandparents Karoly Pinter and Theresa M. Zampar Pinter also had four children: Stephen L. Pinter (my father), Helen Pinter, Elizabeth Pinter (who died at the age of 24 months from the Spanish flu that struck Bethlehem in 1918), and Joseph C. Pinter. My grandfather died of pneumonia on 27 October 1957 and my grandmother died of leukemia on 4 May 1938. Both are buried on St. Michael's cemetery in Bethlehem, PA. The Doncsecz and Pinter siblings lived as one family. They were very close.

The Donchez (Doncsecz) – Pinter Family (Bethlehem, PA in the 1920's)



Picture made in the 1920s in Bethlehem, PA

Back Row: Charles F. Donchez, Mary Mankos (family friend), Anna Donchez Pongracz, Mary Donchez Patrick, Frank Donchez.
Front Row: Stephen L. Pinter, Charles (Károly) Pinter, Helen Pinter Beres, Theresa Zampar Donchez Pinter, Joseph C. Pinter.

Stephen L. Pinter is Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father

Charles (Károly) Pinter and Theresa Zampar Pinter are Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandparents

My father, **Stephen Pinter**, married my mother, **Margaret Pongracz Pinter**, whose Hungarian parents also came from the Raba region of Hungary. Her parents were Michael Pongracz and Maria Pencz Pongracz. Michael Pongracz was born in Körmend (Hungary) in 1874 and he was an orphan. Maria Pencz Pongracz was born in Zsida (Hungary) in 1884.

They married in Hungary in 1902 and immigrated to Bethlehem, PA in 1903. Michael Pongracz was one of the founders of St John Capistrano Church at 4th and Hayes Sts. in Bethlehem, PA.



**Stephen Pinter and Margaret Pongracz Pinter
Margaret Pinter McCarthy's parents**

With this fairly large family, there were many cousins in each generation. I remember as a child having many family picnics and also gatherings at pavilions where polka dancing was held and many delicious ethnic foods were served. Most of our grandfathers and fathers worked as laborers at the Bethlehem Steel Company. Our mothers were homemakers or worked in the silk mills and tobacco factories.

I was born in 1944. My father and most of my uncles served in the military during World War II; my father serving in the US Navy in the Sea of Japan. Thankfully, they all came home safely, unlike the many heroes who lost their lives in the war.



**Margaret Pinter McCarthy as a baby girl with her parents
Margaret Pongracz Pinter and Stephen Pinter**

Bethlehem, PA in 1944

At the time, South Bethlehem was truly a “melting pot.” Our daily lives revolved around the churches. There was a Windish Catholic Church, a Windish Lutheran Church, a Hungarian Church, a German Church, a Slovak Church, an Italian Church, a Polish Church and an Irish Church. With the exception of the Windish Lutheran Church, all were Roman Catholic. Growing up, my friends were of the same background as me. Our fathers all worked at the Steel Co. and, despite which church we were affiliated with, we all went to the same high school – Bethlehem Catholic High School. We were a family and looked after each other. It was an idyllic childhood.

I must mention that in the past, our families struggled financially, but our grandparents and parents worked hard to see that we grew up in stable homes or apartments, were fed, and each had a good education. My generation is settled. Our children are doing well, and our grandchildren have many, many opportunities to go to college or to get good jobs. The Doncsecz-Pinter family has thrived. We have lawyers, teachers, mathematicians, social workers, accountants, factory workers, historical society workers, secretaries, physical therapists, and business workers amongst our numbers. I know I speak for all the family when I say we are very proud of and thankful to our parents and grandparents from the Raba Region in Hungary for bringing us to this point in our lives where we have so many wonderful memories of the past and so much to look forward to in the future. And, we are proud to be Windish!

Written by Margaret Pinter McCarthy

Compiled and edited by Tibor Horvat & Joël Gerber

Graves of Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz, Charles (Karoly) Pinter and Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter



Grave of Charles (Károly) Donchez (Doncsecz)

He is buried on St. Michael's cemetery in Bethlehem, PA. Charles Donchez is the grandfather of Charlene Donchez

(Epitaph in Porabian Slovenian (Windish))



The grave of Theresa Donchez (Doncsecz) Pinter on St Michael's cemetery in Bethlehem, PA

Theresa Zampar Donchez (Doncsacz) Pinter was the grandmother of Margaret Pinter McCarty



Grave of Charles (Károly) Pinter and of his brother Stephen (István) Pinter on St. Michael's cemetery in Bethlehem, PA.

Charles (Károly) Pinter was Margaret Pinter McCarty's grandfather

Obituaries in Porabian Slovenian (Windish) dialect

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ZAHVÁLNOŠT

Od velike zgube i globoke žalosti z-bol eznim srcom povejno najlepšo zahválnošt vzešm našim velikoga računsa prijateľom, dobrim poznáncem, rodbini i szouszidom, ki sžo z-szvojov szpámpátjov delili vu našoj žalosti ob príklič mrtelnošti predráge zšené, líbíéne materé, verne babice, dobre szestře i nepoznáne zálaje vu sztárom kráji Stevanovci narodjene

MRS. FRANK PINTÉR
rojena **THERESA ZAVECZ**

ki je po dugšem betéji 1952 novembra 3.ga vgojčno ob 9:05 vóru vu St. Lukes spítáli, vu 64 lejt sztaroziti i blájšenoga zákonszoga zavléjnya 44-om leti na tihoma navéte zaszpála.

Nasa nepoznáne dráge pokojnice pokápanje je z-velkim tiljémányom bílou obdrzáš. 6. novembra 6.ga vgojčno ob 9 vóru od neregá zszlostnoga douma, 225 Van Buren St., Bethlehem, Pa. ino vu Szv. Jozsefa cérvki je bila szvéta requiem mesa szlúžsena z-trejni díhovnikami, stero sžo odpravili Rev. Clarus Luburic, OFM, plévános kak celebrant, Rev. Patrick Cigich, OFM, Rev. Peter LaTurco kak sub-deacon, po cekivnoji ceremoniji szmo mrtvo tejló vószpvedili na Holy Savior cintor i po zádnyem blagoslovu vu grob položili na velkivécno postávanje.

Nasa drága pokojnica naj posvita szlakto i mérvno vu Bozsem iméni. Nyéni szpoumenek nšepremynéni ozštáne vu našem zszlostnom szrej!

ZSALUJEJO: Mousz, Frank Pintér; szimovje: Charles, Ernest, Anthony, Joseph i Stephen Pintér; cesrij, Mrs. Mary Zdrofcóff i Anna Pintér; szestze, Mrs. Anna Sokal i Mrs. Julia Caszár v-sztárom kráji; nadale 11 vnútkov i cejla rodbina.

Po etoj puti povejno nasa szrečno zahválnošt vzešm tiszim, steri sžo narvezjisti vso pokojno na mrtveci lészaj i dáli szlejdnye postényé, steri sžo verezovítali pri mrtvom tejlí; nadale toplo zahválnošt povejno vzešm tiszim, steri sžo poslali vnozinjo lejpi vécov i korin, steri sžo áldivali za szvéte messe, tak tídi, steri sžo na szpévodi tao vzeš, skrinjo nezli, automobile dáli k-pokápanji ali v-kakozkoli formo nam na pomouca bíli vu óni zszlostni vóral. Lejpo zahválnošt povejno od zgovaj ímuvánimánu vószpódóm díhovnikom za genljivo pokopálisko ceremonijo i za obslúživánye szvéte messe i poprejdno vzešm tiszim, steri sžo tak priznájni bíli k-nam z-szvojim dobrocsevnyem ino sterm szmo nej meli prilike z-reezajov zahváliti, naj po etoj puti szprimlejo vazi nasa odkrito najlepšo zahválnošt.

Véne i korme sžo darivali: Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Konkolicz, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Sokal, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Pinter, Maryann, Budjy, Jackie i Richie, Helen Mikols i Mary Kojek, Celec familija, Louis Sokal, Rozie i Dolly, Frank Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Bernard Swess, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Horvath i Goddaughter Theresa Pinter, Anthony Pinter, Hugh J. Larkin, Fred Rezek i familija, Mrs. Helen Schrenko, Mr. i Mrs. Leo Copt familija, Piff familija, Burkhardt familija, Mr. i Mrs. Richard Gunn familija, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Korpics, The Donchez and Pinter children, Mrs. Mary Zdrofcóff i familija, Theresa, Lina Horvath, Talaber familija, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Sale familija, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Ernest Pinter, Anna i Steve Pinter, American Windish Democratic Club, Drivers & Friends of Mowrer's Dairy, Drivers and Friends of Bethlehem Globe Times, Friends of the Combustion Meter Room, Beth. Steel, B. N. Dept. of Beth. Steel Co., Beth. Steel Night Shift (Char Women) Boys and Friends of Taylor A. A., Employees and Friends of South Bethlehem Brewing Co., Friends of Drakes Bakery, Employees and Friends of Egypt Star Bakery.

Za szvéte messe sžo áldivali: Mr. Frank Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Sokal, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Fzol, Mr. i Mrs. Kalman Domiter, Mrs. Mary Zdrofcóff, Anna i Steve Pinter, Mr. i Devin, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Beres, M. s. Theresa Korpics familija, Taylor A. A., Robert familija, Mrs. Julia Donchez, Bethlehem Steel Char Women, Night Shift, Mr. i Mrs. August Spivak, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Korpics, Mr. i Mrs. George Gosztonyi, Mr. i Mrs. Ernest Pinter, Mrs. Anna Horvath, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Kucey, Steve Donczecz, Mr. i Mrs. George H. Reusner i familija, Mr. i Mrs. John Patrick, Mrs. Katie Makos, Szvetecz familija, Mrs. Mary Meste i cesrij, Mr. i Mrs. John Talaber, Mrs. Frank Boquel, Mrs. Peter Boquel, Mrs. Mary Mestas i familija, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Antalics, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Burke, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Yankovics i szim, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Kovacs, Mr. i Mrs. Leo Copt i familija, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Celec, Mr. i Mrs. Lawrence Chaszar, Mr. i Mrs. Michael Szukics, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Sierlein, Mr. i Mrs. John Chalouie, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Szvetecz i Joseph Mr. i Mrs. Anthony Bologiz, Mr. i Mrs. George Schamenek, Mr. i Mrs. John Gavlik, Balas Talaber i familija, Mr. i Mrs. Anthony Kish, Mr. i Mrs. George Wiley, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Bedics i Theresa, Mr. i Mrs. James Doran Sr., Mr. i Mrs. Frank Boquel, Mrs. Peter Boquel, Mrs. Mary Bold, James Chranko i Kenneth Cutten, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Sarfecz, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Konkolicz, Miss Serben, Mr. i Mrs. Kermit Prechtel, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Mantos i familija, Mr. Louise Mrs. Anna Fiechl, Joseph Bedics familija, Jimmy Nemeth, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Donczecz, John Koenig, Mrs. Robert Devlin i Mr. i Mrs. Charles Domjan.

Skrinjo sžo nezli szimovje: Charles, Joseph, Ernest, Anthony i Stephen Pintér i vnúk Steve Zdrofcóff.

Osztánemo z-postúványom,
ZSALUVAJOUCSA PINTER FAMILIJA

Obituary of Mrs Frank Pinter (née: Thereza Zavec) born in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (Hungary) 1888, died in Bethlehem, PA 1952. Frank (Ferencz) Pinter was the brother of Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandfather Károly Pinter.

Still in the 1950s, in Bethlehem, PA the obituaries were written in Porabian Slovenian (Windish) dialect.

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ZAHVÁLNOŠT

Odspodi podpisani zszlávajoucsi z-bol eznim srcom povejno najlepšo zahválnošt vzešm našim velikoga računsa prijateľom, dobrim poznáncem, rodbini i szouszidom za nyihovo szpámpátjio, ki sžo sžo delili vu našoj globokoj žalosti i zgubi, stera je nasa doszég-nola z-mrtelnoštjov drágoga mozá, líbíéne oco, vernoga dejdéka, nepoznátnoga roda i prijátela, vu sztárom kráji Szlovenszkoj vézi narodjenoga i 1905 leta szepembra v Ameriko prizszeljenoga

LOUIS ZAMPAR-A

ki je po 10 kednov trpécsem betéji 1952 oktobra 4.ga vgojčno ob 5:10 vóru vu St. Lukes spítáli, vu 67 lejtnoj sztaroziti i blájšenoga zákonszoga zavléjnya 44-om leti na velkivécsem szen zápro szvoje ocij.

Nasega líbíéneoga pokojnika pokápanje je 1952 oktobra 7.ga vgojčno ob 8:30 vóru bílou obdrzášno z-velkim tiljémányom od nasega zszlostnoga douma, 462 Rennig Street, Bethlehem, Pa. ino ob 9 vóru je bila szvéta requiem mesa szlúžsena vu Szv. Jozsefa cérvki z-trejni díhovnikami, stero sžo odpravili Rev. Clarus Luburic, OFM, plévános kak celebrant; Rev. Peter LaTurco kak deacon i Rev. Patrick Cigich, OFM kak sub-deacon. Ná zádnye szmo mrtvo tejló vószpvedili na Holy Saviour cintor, gde sžo Father Cigich, OFM, odpravili szlejdnyo ceremonijo i poddelili blagoslov, po sterm szmo mrtvo tejló vu familijzki grob položili na velkivécsem postánek.

Nas drági pokojnik naj posvita mérvno i szlakto vu Bozsem iméni. Nyegov szpoumenek z-nepremynéno líbíénoštjov obcsuvamo vu našem zszlostnom szrci.

ZSALUJEJO: Mrs. Anna Zampar, kak tuzna zszena; Joseph, szin z-zšenov; Mary, omouzsena Mrs. Joseph Chrinko; Helan, omouzsena Mrs. Frank Timer i Anna, omouzsena Joseph Timer, cesrij; tak tídi sézst vnútkov i cejla rodbina.

Po etoj puti naj szprimlejo nasa szrečno zahválnošt vzeš tiszim, steri sžo poglednoli nasega pokojnika na nyegovi mrtveci lészaj i steri sžo verezovítali cejlo nous, steri sžo poslali vnozinjo lejpi vécov i korin, steri sžo áldivali na szvéte messe, na szpévodi tao vzeš, mrtvo tejló nezli, automobile dáli k-pokápanji, ali v-kakozkoli formo nam na pomouca bíli. Toplo zahválnošt povejno goszpodóm díhovnikom za lejpo pokopálisko ceremonijo i za obslúživánye szvéte messe, tak tídi ozronizati Mr. Jerry Koprivceki i cerkvenoj dalárdi. Vzešm szmo nej mogli z-reezajov zahváliti v-tiszim tuzni vóraj za nyihovo dobrocsevnyje, záto naj po etoj puti szprimlejo nasa odkrito lejpo zahválnošt vzeš po-prek.

Za szvéte messe sžo áldivali: Mrs. Anna Zampar, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Zampar, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Chrinko, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Timer, Mr. i Mrs. William Gross, Mr. i Mrs. John Patrick, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Pongracz, Mr. Frank Donchez, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Pinter, Mr. Charles Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Zampar, Mr. i Mrs. John Zampar, Mr. Charles Zampar, Mr. i Mrs. Francis Ruyak, Mr. i Mrs. George Rose i familija (New York City), Mrs. Mary Zampar, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Horvath, Mr. Stephen i Daniel Horvath, Misses Theresa i Margaret Horvath, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Majer, Mr. i Mrs. John Talaber, Miss Anna Talaber, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Talaber, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Pinter, Mr. i Mrs. George Gosztonyi, Mrs. Theresa Horvath i szim, Mr. i Mrs. Anthony Grebenar, Mrs. Theresa Sinko, Mr. i Mrs. Paul J. Matus i Ann, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Zido, Mr. i Mrs. Charles i Christin Donchez, William i Martin Foley, Mr. i Mrs. John Caszár, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Horvath, Mrs. James Kertsnar i familija, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Mestics, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Persa, Mr. i Mrs. John Alexander i szin, Mr. i Mrs. Joseph F. Konkolicz Jr. i szin, Mr. Louis Domyan i cesj, Mr. i Mrs. Lawrence Kelly, Mr. i Mrs. Myron Reese, Mrs. Helen Foley Radle, Mr. i Mrs. Emil Horvath, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Cerenko, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Shamenek, Mr. i Mrs. Stephen Bedics, Mrs. Mary Yanko, Mr. i Mrs. John Horvath, Mr. i Mrs. Leo Taglang, Mr. i Mrs. Simon Kristofik, Mr. i Mrs. Felix C. Morye, Mr. i Mrs. Steve Kavas, Mr. i Mrs. Charles Domyan, Mr. i Mrs. Kuzmics i familija, Mr. i Mrs. Louis Donchetz i familija, Mrs. Theresa Wendell, Mr. i Mrs. Paul Muller, Mr. Harry Miller, Miss Margaret Foley, Mrs. Rose Talaber i Mary, Mrs. Tess Mica, Mrs. Martin Segleter, Mr. i Mrs. Frank Wentzel, Mr. i Mrs. Remus Serban, Miss Rose Serban i Mr. i Mrs. Jerry Koprivceki, vazi z-Bethlehema; Mrs. Louis Domion, Miss Theresa Vazi i Mr. i Mrs. Frank Manos i familija, z-Allentowna i Mr. i Mrs. Frank Chrinko i Mr. i Mrs. Joseph Hamarick z-New Brunswick, N. J.

Skrinjo sžo nezli: Frank i Charles Donchez, Stephen i Joseph Pinter, John Zampar i Joseph Horvath, kak pokojnoga bratáni i szszestránci.

Osztánemo z-szalúványom:
MRS. ANNA ZAMPAR, zszena i familija

Obituary of Louis Zampar (brother of Margaret Pinter Mc Carthy's grandmother Theresa Zampar Donczecz Pinter) born in Slovenska Ves / Rábatótfalu (Hungary) 1885 and immigrated to the USA in 1905.

Obituary is written in Porabian Slovenian (Windish) dialect

The Donchez (Doncsecz) – Pinter family at a glance



Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz & Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter

Grandparents of Charlene Donchez Mowers and of the sisters Mary Pongracz and Josephine Pongracz Falco Kohls



Stephen L. Pinter Charles (Karoly) Pinter Helen Pinter Beres Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter Joseph C. Pinter

Grandparents of Margaret Pinter McCarthy

Stephen L. Pinter: Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father

Charles Pinter & Theresa Zampar-Doncsecz Pinter: Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandparents

Stephen L. Pinter, Helen Pinter Beres, Joseph C. Pinter: Charles (Karoly) Pinter & Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter's children
(A daughter of Karoly Pinter & Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter, Elisabeth Pinter, died at the age of 24 months)

Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz: Theresa Zampar-Doncsecz Pinter's first husband and Charlene Donchez' grandfather

Charles F. Donchez: Charlene Donchez' father

Anna Donchez Pongracz, Mary Donchez Patrick, Frank Donchez: Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz & Theresa Doncsecz Pinter's children

Anna Donchez Pongracz: Mother of the sisters Mary Pongracz and Josephine Pongracz Kohls

The children of Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz and Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter



Anna Donchez Pongracz & Joseph Pongracz
The parents of: Mary Pongracz
Josephine Pongracz Falco Kohls
Joseph Pongracz



Mary Donchez Patrick & John Patrick



Charles Donchez & Amalia Jennelli Donchez
The parents of Charlene Donchez Mowers



Frank Donchez and Evelyn Donchez

The children of Charles (Karoly) Pinter and Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter



Stephen L. Pinter & Margaret Pongracz Pinter

The parents of: Margaret Pinter McCarthy
Elisabeth Pinter Runge
Stephen Pinter



Joseph Pinter & Emma Cesanek Pinter

Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father's brother
The parents of: Donna Pinter Goserud
Barbara Pinter



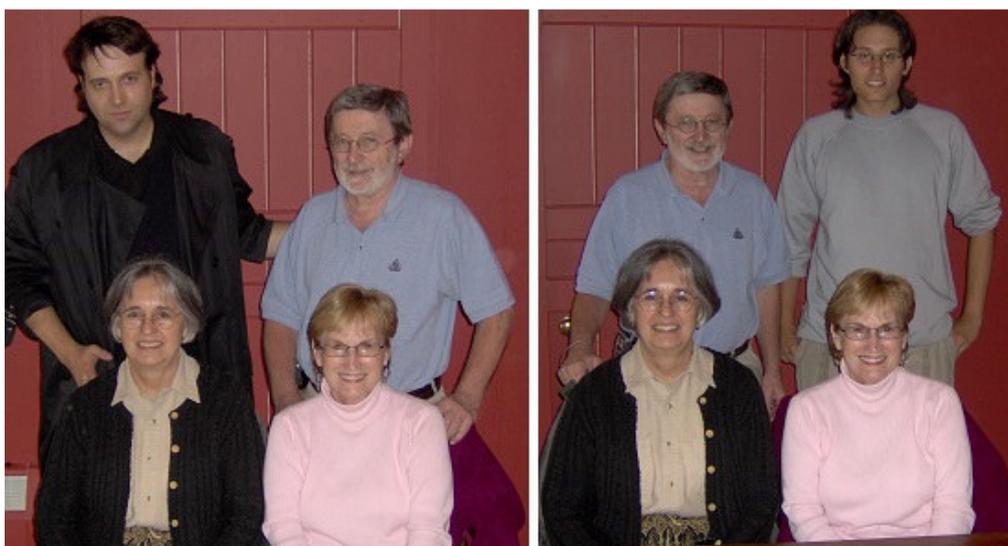
Helen Pinter Beres & Joseph Beres

Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father's sister

Meeting the descendants of Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz, Charles (Karoly) Pinter and Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter

Written by Tibor Horvat & Joël Gerber

When Tibor Horvat and his father visited his aunts in the U.S. in 1989, they went also to Bethlehem, PA to visit Tibor's father's former neighbors from Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva. There, Tibor Horvat noticed that the city of Bethlehem has a large community of Slovenes from the Raba Region in Hungary. Years later, we (Tibor Horvat and Joël Gerber) began to deal with the emigration history of the Slovenes from Hungary to Bethlehem, PA. Also the fact that Tibor's two grandaunts (Marija Horvat and Ana Horvat) emigrated to the U.S. around 1910, motivated us to learn more about Slovene emigration history. In 2005, we wrote an e-mail to Charlene Donchez Mowers, the President of Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites, to ask her about Bethlehem's Slovene heritage. We assumed that her maiden name Donchez must be an Americanized version of a Porabian Slovene last name Doncsecz and thus she could provide us with further first-hand information on Bethlehem's Slovene past and present. It turned out that our e-mail to Charlene Donchez Mowers meant a huge success to us. She replied to our e-mail straightaway and gave us precious historical information on Bethlehem and also the e-mail address of her cousin, Margaret Pinter McCarthy and her husband Joseph McCarthy, both living in Bethlehem. We then contacted the McCarthys with whom we established an intensive and interesting conversation about the Slovene history of Bethlehem. We learned with great pleasure that Margaret Pinter McCarthy's and Charlene Donchez Mower's grandfathers were born in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva where also Tibor Horvat originates from. Enthusiasm to find out more about the Slovene heritage of Bethlehem grew and in 2006, we decided to travel to Bethlehem, PA. We intended to get first-hand information on the city's Slovene heritage on site and to meet Charlene, Margaret and Joseph in person. When we arrived in Bethlehem, PA, Charlene, Margaret and Joseph welcomed us cordially, which we appreciated very much. We all saw us for the first time but it felt as if we had known each other already for years and as if we were related to each other.



First meeting in Bethlehem, PA (USA)
front: Charlene Donchez Mowers, Margaret Pinter McCarthy
back: Tibor Horvat, Joseph McCarthy (left), Joseph McCarthy, Joël Gerber (right)

After interesting and extensive discussions about our common Windish heritage and ancestors, we found out that we are really related: Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandfather's mother, Marija (Mária) Horvat, and Charlene Donchez Mowers' grandfather's mother, Terezija (Teréz) Horvat, were sisters of Tibor's grandfather's father, Karel (Károly) Horvat. This

means that Tibor, Margaret and Charlene are third cousins who have the same great-great-grandparents: Janez (János) Horvat (born in Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva) and Marija (Mária) Bedi (born in Verica Ritkarovci/Kétvölgy). It was such a wonderful surprise that we did not only become friends but that we also found new relatives in the USA and all the experiences we made there were thoroughly positive, which inspired us to visit Bethlehem, PA once again in 2007.

In 2007, we had the great opportunity to visit Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father, Stephen L. Pinter, who still lived in South Bethlehem where decades ago the majority of the Porabian and Prekmurian Slovenes settled and used to live and work. Mr. Stephen L. Pinter told us vividly about his Slovene Windish past. He reminisced about his parents, Károly Pinter and Theresa Zampar Pinter, and told us that they spoke Windish (Porabian Slovenian) together and how they preserved their Windish heritage. Mr Pinter still knew a little Windish and he remembered also a Windish song he had been taught by his parents when he was still a child. It was a highly emotional moment when he sang the old Windish song and you we felt how proud he was of his Windish roots. He also told us about working at *The Bethlehem Steel Company* and how life used to be as a child and a young adult in multicultural South Bethlehem. He informed us about the Windish communities and the church the Windish Catholics went to (*St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church*) in South Bethlehem as well. Talking to Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father was such an enriching experience and it was so fascinating to get first-hand information on Windish Bethlehem. We are very thankful to Margaret Pinter McCarthy who had introduced us to her father and we are also very grateful to Mr Pinter who shared his precious memories with us. 2010, Mr Pinter's daughter informed us about his passing, which made us very sad. We will keep Mr Pinter always in our memories and will remember him as a very sympathetic man with a big heart and an important witness of the Windish life of Bethlehem.



Bethlehem, PA (2007) Visiting Margaret Pinter McCarthy's father

from left to right:

Margaret Pinter McCarthy, Stephen L. Pinter, Tibor Horvat

Stephen L. Pinter: Father of Margaret Pinter McCarthy

In 2007, we had also the great opportunity to meet the other grandchildren of Charles (Károly) Doncsecz, Mary Pongracz and Josephine Pongracz Kohls and her husband Dr. Winfred Kohls who gave us a warm welcome in Bethlehem and provided us with precious information on Slovene Windish heritage in Bethlehem too. We owe thanks to them as well.



Meeting in Bethlehem, PA (2007)
from left to right:
Margaret Pinter McCarthy (Karoly Pinter's grandchild), **Tibor Horvat**,
Josephine Pongracz Falco Kohls (Karoly Doncsecz' grandchild), her husband
Dr. Winfred Kohls, **Charlene Donchez Mowers** (Karoly Doncsecz' grandchild)



Bethlehem, PA (2007)
Mary Pongracz (grandchild of Charles (Karoly) Doncsecz),
Vendel Časar (Tibor's father's friend born in
Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva) and **Tibor Horvat** at a Slovenian event.



Bethlehem, PA (USA) 2007
from left to right:
Joël Gerber, **Margaret Pinter McCarthy**, **Joseph McCarthy**, **Tibor Horvat**

In 2007, we met Margaret Pinter McCarthy and her husband, Joseph McCarthy, in the Slovene Raba Region in Hungary. We visited Margaret's grandmother's (Maria Pencz Pongracz) birthplace in Zsida and her grandfather's, Charles (Károly) Pinter's, birthplace Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva where we met also Tibor's uncle and Margaret's father's second cousin.



Zsida (Hungary) 2007
Margaret Pinter McCarthy in the village where her grandmother on her mother's side Maria Pencz Pongracz was born



Števanovci/Apátistvánfalva (2007)
Birthplace of Margaret Pinter McCarthy's grandfather Charles (Károly) Pinter
Joseph McCarthy and Margaret Pinter McCarthy
with Tibor Horvat's uncle Zoltán Horvat

We are really thankful and glad that we had the opportunity to meet Karoly Doncsecz', Karoly Pinter's and Theresa Zampar Doncsecz Pinter's grandchildren with whom we cultivate a deep friendship still today. We thank Margaret Pinter McCarthy and Joseph McCarthy for sharing their memories about the emigration history of the Doncsecz Pinter family with us and for making the valuable photographs of their ancestors available to us.

Tibor Horvat & Joël Gerber, May 2016