

ECHOES OF THE HUSS FAMILY



BY ARLENE RIDER HUSS
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PREFACE

Writing this little family history is a dream come true. When I was a WAC in Germany in the 1940s after World War II, I first tried to find where Grandpa and Granny Huss came from and continued thru the years with no success. Finally in 2006 with help from the Palatines to America Library, especially the librarian Ann Scott, and the online Burgenland Bunch the mystery was solved. But by then I wasn't sure anyone but me was really interested

Thanks to their great granddaughter Rebecca "Becky" Mason Bugosh, I learned there was at least one person who was interested and since then others as well. Much of this story is from my memory and research, but many thanks too to Becky, my only remaining cousin Dorothy Huss Kaylor and another great grandchild Jan Garrett for their photos, help and encouragement.

There's much more to learn about this family, but at age 89 I'll leave that further search to somebody else.

There's also much to be proud of in this story. I hope you enjoy reading Echoes of the Huss Family as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Arlene Huss

ECHOES OF THE HUSS FAMILY

"Out home" is where we went when we were going to visit Grandpa and Granny Huss (John & Mary Fuchs Huss). Why "out home" I have no idea except it was out of town on a dirt road a few miles from Royalton in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County PA. That is where they finally settled after coming to America. This is their story.

....the background

As a kid in the 1920s, I didn't like Grandpa Huss and it may have been mutual. Seemed to me Grandpa thought children were to be seen and not heard. "Pop" as his children called him, along with other not-so-nice names, was always boss and especially at the dinner table where I remember him most. One time when my Dad was sitting next to Grandpa and leaning his elbows on the table, Grandpa grabbed his arms at the wrists and banged his elbows on the table. Scary then, I now know my Dad did it deliberately to irritate his father a bit.

Apparently Grandpa abused Granny. On leaving "out home" one evening, Daddy parked along side the road over a small hill away from the house—I still know the spot—and said to my Mother "I'm going back to see if Pop's behaving himself. If he lays a hand on Mom, I'll kill the son of a bitch!" Of course, as a four-year old I was frightened. In what seemed ages—now I know a few minutes—Daddy returned to say everything was quiet and we went on our way.

Contrary to Grandpa, I liked Granny, perhaps because my parents did too. Mother always said she was a very intelligent lady. That wasn't apparent to me because her knowledge of English was very limited. As children we'd generally pay our respects and run, both "out home" and during the infrequent times she came to visit. During one of her visits when we lived in Lancaster, we kids had to stay indoors because of bad weather. Granny entertained us by folding all sorts of origami-like things from old magazine pages. I was especially intrigued by one she called "salz und pfeffer" (salt and pepper) and how I wish I knew how to do it now.

Physically I remember Grandpa too for his tobacco-stained mustache and penetrating eyes. Forbidding is the best word for my feelings. Granny seemed kind and gentle, albeit subservient as well. In stature, she was a small lady and diagonally across her face was a large broken vein from above one eye to below the corner of her mouth on the other side. It supposedly happened when she was thrown from a horse-drawn vehicle.

On the back of the stove "out home" was a big blue granite coffee pot. It was always there and whenever the extended family got together, out came the coffee cups and pinochle cards. The men would play cards and the ladies would prepare the food and catch up on the latest family news. Mother said Granny would make fresh coffee each Sunday with new grounds in the bottom of that big old pot—then all week would merely add a few new grounds and more water. By Saturday night, she said "it could stand by itself."

Coffee wasn't the only beverage "out home." There was a long row of grape arbors down the path to the sheds and around the kitchen porch, used for making wine. Granny's step-father was a wine-dresser according to Aunt Lizzie and wine was common-place as part of the diet where they came from. So it was no surprise that Grandpa had a still during Prohibition. Apparently he spent more than a little of his non-working time imbibing. In any case, the revenuers did conduct a raid and Uncle Pete, home at the time, went to jail—when and for how long is still to be learned.

Another family story said Grandpa went to Middletown to buy Granny a pair of shoes for \$3.00. On the way he met a drinking buddy who said he knew where they could get her shoes for \$2.00 which left them a \$1.00 for booze.

"Out home" was fun when we were kids. It was very rocky land and the stone fences made from clearing the fields provided great places for playing hide and seek. We tried baseball, but there wasn't enough space. Inside was the Victrola—that magical music maker. One of the adults would have to put the phonograph records on the turntable because we weren't tall enough and we might scratch the fragile recordings. We could choose the ones we wanted from the title on the jackets and we could crank the handle.

Another outdoor activity for the whole family was hunting morels, an edible mushroom, which thrived in the surrounding woodland. As a very distinctive brain-like mushroom we kids learned to identify them early in life. In 1955 my Dad found the biggest morel ever found in PA to that time; it was 10" high and 12" in circumference. Still later my brother Joe and I asked permission to hunt for morels from the then owners of "out home" but we had no luck.

When I was six Grandpa Huss died. Again I could pick the exact spot where sister Gerry and I sat in the last row in front of a big window on the corner of Spring & Water Sts in Middletown at Brestle's Funeral Parlor. Knowing that Grandpa wasn't nice to Granny I couldn't understand why she was crying uncontrollably and why she was wearing all black. Perhaps her tears came because the priest wouldn't conduct the services for Grandpa who, like all the rest of the family except Granny, was a fallen-away Catholic. To distract myself from what I couldn't understand I remember counting the cars going by outside the window.

Granny's funeral I remember for very different reasons. I was sad that as a freshman in high school I didn't know her better. For weeks before her 70th birthday, she lamented how old she was becoming and died one week later at Aunt Lizzie's in Middletown. There was a terrible blizzard the day of her funeral, so bad that postponement was considered. A Funeral Mass was held for her at St Mary's Catholic Church in Middletown, where she was a member. Our parents sat in the first two rows and let all the grandchildren sit behind them. That was a mistake.

Cousin Russell and I, the two oldest, sat side by side. None of us understanding the Mass, in Latin or formality, it seemed comical as things always do in church and the priest proved the comedian for us. He had a bad cold and every now and then he would reach up the sleeve of his vestment, pull out a big handkerchief with a flourish and blow like fury. Russell leaned over and said "next time he's going to pull out a white rabbit." That did it. We giggled and all the little kids did too, not even knowing why. Our parents wheeled around and their stares calmed us down in short order. The police and a snow plow led the funeral procession thru the drifting snow to Hillsdale Cemetery and then "out home" where neighbors served the traditional dinner for the family. When the priest sprinkled holy water on the coffin, the drops froze where they fell. Now somehow those frozen drops seem symbolic of Granny and Grandpa's lives and experiences which are also frozen in time.



...family traditions

.Granny and Grandpa Huss both died before I was stationed in Germany as a WAC and tried to find their hometowns. All I knew for sure was that they were German, Roman Catholic and that my Aunt Mary was born before they emigrated. My letters home asking for more information resulted in a variety of answers. Aunt Lizzie said Granny was born in St Joseph, Saxony, Aunt Mary said in Transylvania and her obit read St Peter. She was said to have been born illegitimately, an only child, and her mother's name was Fuchs. Aunt Lizzie said her stepfather who tended vineyards as an occupation was named Miller, but on her death certificate Uncle Pete indicated her father was Michael Fuchs and her mother was Mary Echard.

Grandpa was purportedly born in St Johann, Saxony, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Miller Huss according to Uncle Bill who provided information for the death certificate or the son of Joseph and wife surnamed Shive, Shire or Shine according to Aunt Lizzie. There were other family stories: that Grandpa's father died falling from a horse while serving in the Army, that brothers also served in the Army and Grandpa came to America to dodge military service, that his family home was razed when the railroad was built through their village and he was married previously and his child and first wife died in childbirth. In addition, the 1920 US Census shows their birthplace as "Belvaria, Ger" which I assumed meant Bavaria, Germany. According to the 1892 German Empire Atlas, there were only 10 towns named St Johann in Bavaria alone plus one St Peter and one St Joseph. The ship manifest on which Grandpa arrived simply said he came from "Johann."

as for any
knowledge of where the folks came from
I'm in the dark. as I was a baby when
they came over I've often wondered
about it. Once I ask Grandma
here is the information. I can't ask Grandma
give on the place of where mom said Transylvania.
& Pop came from. is Saxony, Ger.
Pop. came from a place called St.
John. his father was killed by
falling off a horse. was in a
uniform. of their army at the time.
he had a sister, & Bros. who are
boath dead. the sister was
married to a Dr. but donot know
her name. just I : as for moms, she came from
a place called St. Joseph. her
step father. tended a vineyard.
her name was Miller. her
mothers maiden name was
Frox or Flux as they spell it.
she had no sister, or. Brothers

....found in Hungary

In 2006, with this mixed bag of information and because of an article the Palatines to America (PALAM) published about the "Transylvania Saxons," I asked their library for help. Their research pointed to Janossomorja, Hungary, not Germany as the possible "heimat" of Grandpa and Granny Huss and how right they were. Why Janossomorja—because Janossomorja, since 1970, incorporates the former neighboring villages of St Johann (Mosonszentjanos) and St Peter (Mosonszentpeter). It is in northwest Hungary close to the Austrian border between Vienna and Budapest. Confirming family tradition, these villages are in vineyard country, the villages were populated primarily by ethnic Germans, the major churches were Catholic and the railroad did go through St Johann.

The PALAM Library also introduced me to the Burgenland Bunch, an online group of genealogists interested in the history, culture and people of the Burgenland—a region encompassing a province of Austria and neighboring areas of Croatia and Hungary, including Janossomorja, and what a blessing that turned out to be.



A fellow Burgenland Bunch member, Mike Winkler, researched the church records of St Johann and St Peter on his own and sent the following very, very welcome information for Granny and Grandpa and some of their forbearers. He would take nothing in return, except thank you. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his time and kindness because translating these records from Hungarian and Latin is not an easy task.

Married 5 May 1812 Georgius (George) Scheuer of Pogomy (Pamhagen), age 26, son of Georgii, & Catharine Hebenstreit, age 26 widow of Mathias of Sz Peter. Witnesses: Thomas Albers & Antonius Venes of Sz Peterensis

Married 9 Feb 1846 Jozsef (Joseph) Husz of Sz. Janos Kaiser wiesen (?Army camp), son of Pal (Paul) Husz & Anna Winkler and Maria Scheuer of Sz. Peter, daughter of Gyorgy (George) Scheuer & Katolin (Katherine) Keller. Witnesses Gyorgy Kogl & Janos Moliner.

Born/baptized 1 Apr 1852 Josephus (Joseph) Husz, son of Josephus & Maria Scheyer, Catholic. Sponsors: Franciscus and Magdalena Zeth

Born 25 Dec/baptized 27 Dec 1854 Joannes (John) Husz son of Josephus & Maria Scheur Husz, Catholic, House #168. Sponsors: Franciscus & Magdalena Schmidt Zeth, Catholic

Born/baptized 6 Nov 1858 Leonardus Husz, son of Joseph and Marie Scheir, Catholic, Sz Janos House #168

Died 10 Jan 1859 Joannes, age 4, son of Josephus & Maria Scheuer, Sz Janos House #168

Died 31 Aug & buried 2 Sep 1860 Leonardus, age 1-1/2 years, son of Josephi Husz & Maria Scheuer, Sz Janos House #168

Born 9 Jun/baptized 10 Jun 1861 Johannes (John) son of Josephus (Joseph) Huss and Maria Scheier, Catholic, Sz Janos House #167. Sponsors: Franciscus Zeth and Magdalena Schmidt, Catholic

Married 11 May 1885 Janos Husz (John Huss), age 25 from Sz Janos, the son of Jozsef (Joseph) and Mari Scheirer married Erszebet (Elizabeth) Janisch, age 23 from Sz Peter, the daughter of Miahly (Michael and Katolin (Katherine) Szath. Unfortunately Elizabeth died on 23 Nov 1885 and ten days later on 2 Dec 1885, their son Janos Husz died of atrophía and was buried the next day.

Died 21 Jan 1885 Mari Husz nee Scheier, a widow, age 68 and was buried 22 Jan.

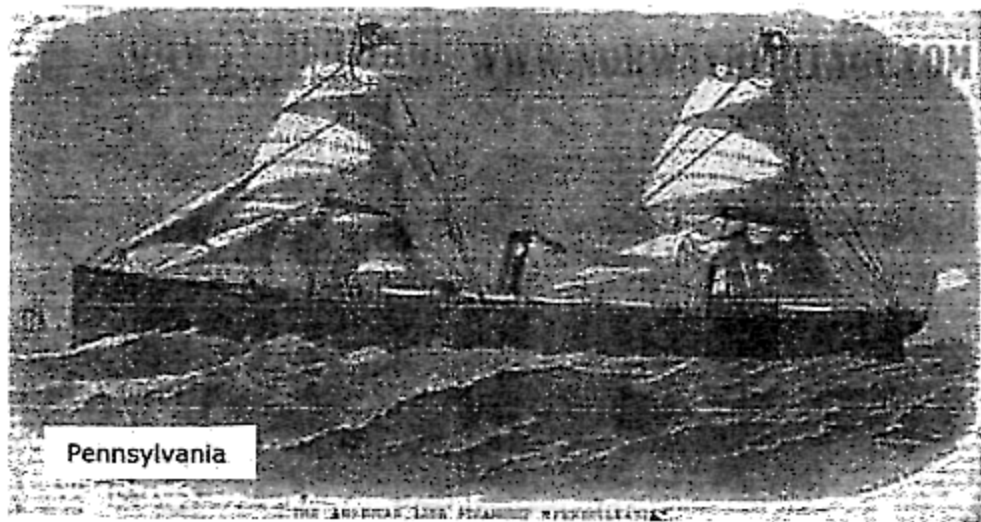
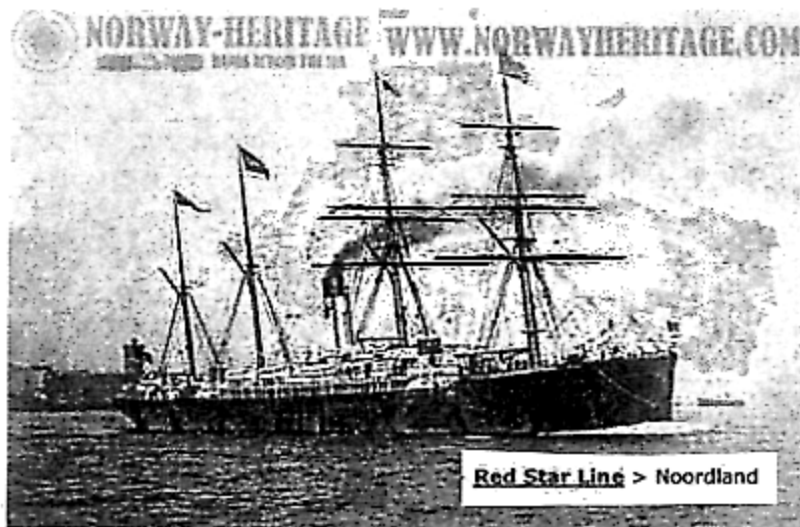
Married 8 Mar 1886 Janos Husz a widower, and Maria Fuchs, age 21 of Sz Janos/Szolnok., the daughter of Mari Fuchs. No name was given as the father, lending credence to the family tradition that Granny was illegitimate. Witnesses were Mihaly Pfeffer and Istvan (Steven) Fuchs of Sz Peter..undoubtedly a relative

Though many questions remain and there are more records to research, some conclusions can be drawn from these records. For instance:

It is believed Catharina Hebenstreit and Katolin (Katherine) Keller in the first and second records above is the same person; that Keller was her maiden name and Hebenstreit, the name of her first husband.

Mention of an Army camp when Joseph Huss married may confirm family tradition that he was in the military, though later on when his children were born he's identified as a dirt farmer. Perhaps he was in the military when he married. Since we don't yet know when or how he died, the family tradition of his death as a result of falling from a horse remains a mystery. Occupations for most of the men, including the witnesses were classified as *sub inquilinus* (in Latin) or *zseller* (in Hungarian) meaning tenant or dirt farmers.

Since Grandpa's parents, Joseph & Maria Huss, married in 1846, it is almost certain they had more children than those listed above. According to family tradition Grandpa had a number of brothers and a sister Mary.



...coming to America

Why Grandpa and Granny left their homeland we'll probably never know. Historically for most people it was to better their lives economically and for all of us it seems "the grass is always greener on the other side." Perhaps they had word from friends who emigrated before them that this was the way to go. From records of other families we know that a quarter of St Johann belonged to large land owners with 100 acres and the rest was held by small farmers with less than 10 acres. In addition there were tenant or dirt farmers such as Grandpa, who had no land, but worked that of other people.

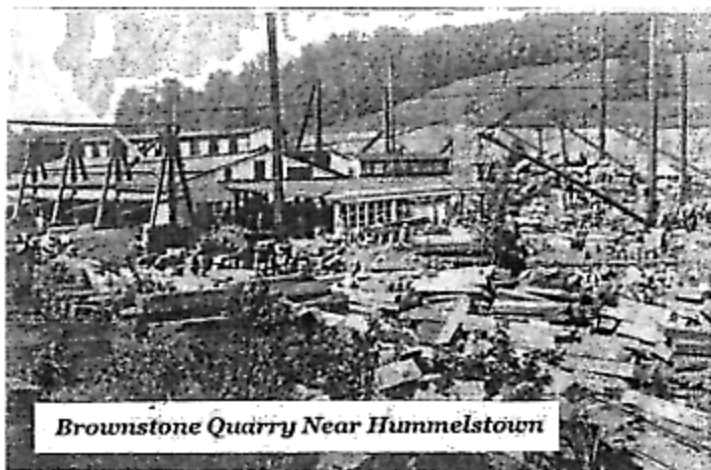
As to how they traveled, other documented examples of emigrants indicate they boarded wagons with their suitcases, steamer trunks and food packages which took them from their village to the nearest train station. From there, there were several changes of trains with great concern that they had the right papers to meet all the travel, health, money and customs requirements at the Austrian-Hungarian, German and Belgian borders before arriving in Hamburg or Antwerp to board their steamship. The following sworn statement by the Captain of the ship on which Granny sailed from Hamburg to Liverpool, England gives us a bit of insight into conditions aboard. Of course we have no idea what conditions were really like, especially in steerage—the lowest class and the one both Grandpa and Granny used.

"I hereby swear on my honor that none of these persons are forbidden transport; that I will provide the legally prescribed quantity of healthy good food, water and other equipment for five days; that the inspector has approved the equipment on board; that no objections have been found in conducting immigrants since 14 Jan 1887 and that I am obligated to all aspects of the law for the journey of the emigrant ship."

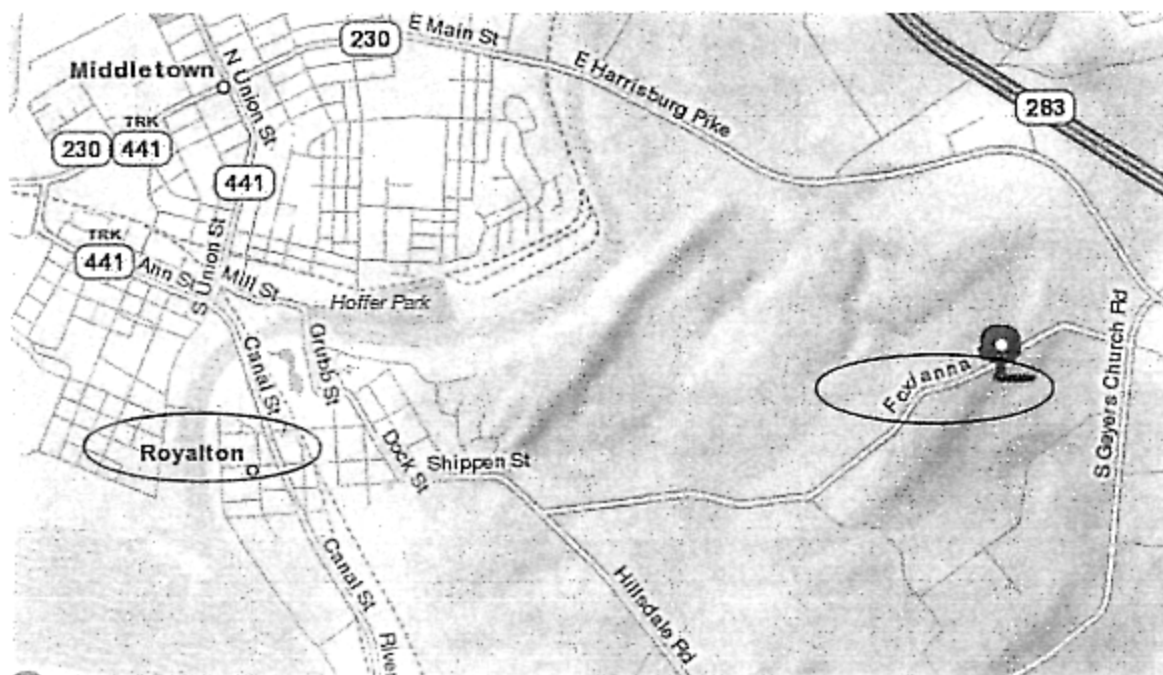
Arriving in America they would be ferried from their ship to an immigration station for the rigors of processing. For Grandpa it was Castle Garden, New York, where emigrants would be questioned about their age, nativity, occupation; condition of their health and ability to provide for themselves and companions. From there they would again have to find a way to the train station to take them to the railhead nearest their destination and then find a place to live and transport to get there. Again how Grandpa and Granny chose their destination and where they lived initially we don't know. We can only speculate that they had friends who came before them.

Despite coming from Hungary, there's no doubt Grandpa and Granny were German. Germans lived throughout Hungary and Eastern Europe for generations. Though right after World War II, in compliance with the Potsdam Agreement of the Allies, all ethnic Germans were expelled from all of these areas and sent to Germany even though they had never lived there before. As a result, it is reported that the former German villages of St Johann and St Peter—the hometowns of Grandpa and Granny—were nearly depopulated and have since been resettled by Hungarians. Despite this expulsion of ethnic Germans, while traveling in Hungary in 1997 it was interesting to note that business names and street signs were still designated in both German and Hungarian in many villages.

Grandpa came to the United States alone sailing from Antwerp, Belgium aboard the Noordland and arriving in New York on 6 Jul 1888. On the ship manifest his occupation was given as "laborer" from "Johann." Granny followed, with one year-old Aunt Mary, six months later sailing aboard the British Queen from Hamburg, Germany to Liverpool, England on 22 Jan 1889, then reboarding another ship, the Pennsylvania, and arriving in Philadelphia on 14 Feb 1889. Her residence was given as Andau, a village very close to Janossomorja on the Austrian border where she possibly lived after Grandpa left.



Below:
 "out home" as it is today
 at 2148 Foxianna Rd



...establishing a new home

Learning that Granny gave Hummelstown as her destination when she left Europe was a real surprise because that's where my family lived from over 50 years. Apparently that was Grandpa's address at the time. His obituary indicated he was a driller in the brownstone quarries at Waltonville very close to Hummelstown but we don't know how long he worked there or where they may have lived in the neighborhood. Granny's obit says they also lived in Reading and Grandpa spoke of them walking from Reading to Harrisburg or vice versa, with him carrying Aunt Mary the whole way. If only Mary was mentioned, perhaps it was soon after Granny arrived and before Aunt Lizzie was born in Mar 1890.

We know they were in the Harrisburg area by 27 Jan 1890 when Grandpa petitioned for citizenship in Dauphin County Court. He became a citizen in 1895. Curiously the papers say Grandpa renounced the "Emperor of Germany," which is incorrect because they didn't live in or come from Germany, but from the then Austro-Hungarian Empire. Researchers have learned it is not unusual for German-speaking people to be documented as coming from Germany when that wasn't the case. In any case, to renounce your homeland must be a heart-wrenching experience.

By 12 Apr 1893 they had acquired enough money to buy a lot, apparently on Dock Street, in Royaltown from John Shoop and his wife. It is not clear from the deed if it included a house or if they built one on the lot. Three years later on 7 Mar 1896, they were still living there when their nine-month old son John died of croup.

In 1900, Grandpa's occupation was given as "laborer in pipe mill" -in Steelton according to my mother. And sometime before 1903, they moved to Rife St in Royaltown where "between two and three o'clock in the morning on 28 Jan some of the citizens were aroused by a cry of fire which occurred at the residence of John Huss, and is supposed to have originated from a defective flue." A short time later, on 2 Feb 1903, they moved again; this time to Londonderry Twp (today 2148 Foxianna Rd) where they bought 5 acres and 93 perches with all the hereditaments and appurtenances belonging to the same from August Gottlieb & Leberte Koellner of New Cumberland. This is where they spent the rest of their lives.

By the time they moved to Londonderry Twp, Granny had borne eight children, with five living and ten years later had four more with seven living. In 1910 Grandpa's occupation was given as "farmer," but in 1920 as a "laborer on the railroad." Granny was not only bearing children but with four under the age of 14 years, was also working in a cigar factory and we talk about the rigors of working mothers today! While the US Census indicates Granny had 12 children, records for only nine have been found. It is possible that in addition to Aunt Mary, another child was born in Hungary before they emigrated. John and Emma, their children who died in infancy here, were buried in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, in Middletown.

Grandpa was bedfast for a few months before he died. His death certificate lists the causes as "endocarditis for 8 weeks, rheumatic arthritis for 9 months and bronchitis for 6 weeks." Granny died unexpectedly of a heart attack while visiting with Aunt Lizzie in Middletown. Both are buried in Hillsdale Cemetery, adjoining Geyer's Church in Londonderry Twp., Dauphin County PA.

Despite my early memories and despite the feelings of his children, Grandpa couldn't have been all bad. He may have been running from the Army or something else and undoubtedly imbibed too much, but to leave your homeland and head for the unknown and in only few years after arriving to have worked hard enough to buy your own home and in less than ten years to move into a permanent home with some land took a lot of courage and is to be admired. For me, Granny was even more courageous traveling on her own with a baby a little more than a year old.

....the family tree	born	died
I Pal Huss/Husz	-----	-----
married Anna Winkler	-----	-----
George Scheuer/Scheier	--c1786	-----
married 5 May 1812 Katolin Keller Hebenstreit	--c1786	-----
II Joseph Huss son of Pal Husz & Anna Winkler	-----	-----
married 9 Feb 1846 Maria Scheier	---1817	21 Jan 1885
daughter George Scheier & Katherine Hebenstreit		
III Known children of Joseph & Maria Scheier Huss		
Joseph	1 Apr 1852	-----
John #1	25 Dec 1854	10 Jan 1859
Leonard	6 Nov 1858	31 Aug 1860
John #2	9 Jun 1861	29 Jan 1929
IV John Huss	9 Jun 1861	29 Jan 1929
married 11 Mary 1885 Errzebet Janisch	-----	23 Nov 1885
daughter of Mihaly & Katolin (Szath) Janisch		
son John	-----	2 Dec 1885
married 8 Mar 1886 Maria Fuchs	2 Feb 1866	12 Feb 1936
Mary Catherine	18 Jan 1888	12 Dec 1959
Elizabeth (Lizzie)	27 Mar 1890	9 Mar 1951
Josephine (Sophie)	2 Jun 1892	Dec 1943
John	24 Jun 1895	8 Mar 1896
William Jacob	17 Jan 1897	30 Dec 1970
Joseph Jacob	15 Apr 1899	26 Sep 1955
Jacob	2 Apr 1901	25 Nov 1951
Emma	23 Mar 1903	11 Apr 1905
Peter James	26 Jun 1905	2 Mar 1968



Peter William Jacob Joseph
Mary Elizabeth Sophie

..what happened to Grandpa and Granny's kids

Except for a few church records, school photos and a bit of information from the US Census we know little of the childhood of Grandpa and Granny's kids.

All the children but Mary and Elizabeth were baptized into the Catholic Church by priests of the Seven Sorrows Parish of Middletown PA. Mary was probably baptized in Hungary and Elizabeth where they lived before they moved to Royalton. Except for Sophie, the baptism sponsors were Jacob Kelch and his wife and daughters.

Mary, Elizabeth and Sophie the three oldest girls, aged 12, 10 and seven, were all in school Royalton in 1900. Geyers School photos of 1908, 1909 and 1910 include William, Joseph and Jacob, ages 7 thru 12. By 1910 Aunt Mary, age 22, was no longer living at home. Aunt Lizzie and Aunt Sophie, ages 20 and 18 still lived at home and were working in a cigar factory, along with Grandma. It was probably at the Middletown Cigar Company which opened in 1905 and by November had 300 employees, mostly women. They earned \$3.00 a week to start and after a few months on piece work could earn from \$7.00 to \$9.00 a week.

Their individual stories follow.



1908 Geyer's School photo
First row: Jacob Huss fourth from left
Middle row: Joseph Huss second from left
Top row: William Huss fifth from left



Aunt Mary in PA 1937



Aunt Mary & Uncle Chance 1951

Aunt Mary as WWII Air Raid Warden



Brother Joe with sisters Lizzie left
and Mary right 1937



MARY CATHERINE HUSS

As indicated before Mary Catherine Huss or Aunt Mary, the oldest girl of the family was born on 19 Jan 1888 in St Johann, Hungary. The 1900 census shows her living at home and going to school in Royalton. That same year she's also listed as a "boarder"—probably a hired girl-- in the home of Barney & Catherine Yingst in E Londonderry Twp. At some point, she supposedly said she wanted to get far enough from home that it would take a penny postal card six weeks to reach her. She almost made it.

On 27 Feb 1910 she married Chauncey Elmer Boyer in York, Pa and they lived with his parents in York. He was born 3 Feb 1890, the son of Alexander and Lovie Ann Gentzler Boyer of York County, Pa. They headed west and lived in Michigan, Oregon and Washington before settling in California. There are photos of them along the way picking cotton, at a sod house in Nebraska and in parks around Washington and British Columbia.

In 1917 when Uncle Chance, as he was known, registered for the draft in WW I, they lived in Spokane WA and he was an iron moulder at the Monarch Iron Works. In 1919 they lived in Seattle WA. There's no record of where they were for the 1920 US Census, but by 1922 they were in California living first in Venice and then for 31 years in Los Angeles. Uncle Chance operated heavy construction equipment and for years Aunt Mary was a manager of a Woolworth cafeteria. She was also an air raid warden during WWII and a judge of elections in Los Angeles. The whole family was elated when she came home for a visit in 1937.

In 1948 Uncle Chance and Aunt Mary bought 3-1/2 acres in Vista "mostly with limes" Aunt Mary wrote, but later she spoke of harvesting avocados as well. For some years they cared for it by commuting from Los Angeles and keeping geese there as watch dogs, but by 1955 built a house and moved there permanently. She lived there only four years and died of a coronary thrombosis on 15 Dec 1959 at age 71. In 1961, Uncle Chance married a widow friend, Florence Richter who wrote that they enjoyed 10 years together. He died on 16 Feb 1971 of pneumonia. Both he and Aunt Mary are buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, CA. They had no children.



Aunt Mary
with husband Chance
& youngest brother Peter
about 1910



Aunt Lizzie with baby John
About 1923



John Peters Jr about 1929



Uncle John & Aunt Lizzie
1936



Aunt Lizzie (middle) with brother
William & sister Mary

ELIZABETH HUSS

Elizabeth, known as Lizzie or Itty, was born on 27 Mar 1890, possibly in or near Waltonville, PA. In the 1900 census she too was attending school in Royalton. She was still living at home in 1910 and was working in the cigar factory with Granny and Aunt Sophie. By 1920 Aunt Lizzie was no longer listed with the family nor found elsewhere in the 1920 US Census. But within the next couple years, she married John W Peters, born 23 Jul 1876, the son of John A and Annie Winaugle Peters. He was first married to Grace Boggs about 1910 and was living with her family and their six-month daughter Dorothy. His occupation was given as working in "baggage" for the Pennsylvania Railroad. By 1918, when he registered for the draft in WWI, his occupation was given as a "clerk" and by Jan 1920 as "ticket agent." He and his daughter were then living with his parents.

Aunt Lizzie and Uncle John lived in Middletown all their lives. Their only son John was born on 1 Oct 1922. Aunt Lizzie was a jolly lady who enjoyed life. She was also the brunt of her brothers' teasing many times. She loved to cook and eat and one Christmas came to the defense of the children at the local orphanage where they were going to serve oysters for dinner instead of turkey because oysters were cheaper. Aunt Lizzie won, they served turkey.

Uncle John died on 13 Jun 1943 and both his children then in the Army, Dorothy in FL and John in VA were called home for the funeral. Aunt Lizzie died in Harrisburg Hospital on 9 Mar 1951 after living for a time with her son. Both are buried in the Middletown Cemetery. On 21 Jan 1946 their son John (1 Oct 1922-12 Sep 2005) married Jean Houser (11 Apr 1919-16 Mar 2002). They too are buried in the Middletown Cemetery. They had one son Jeffrey.



Aunt Lizzie about 1908



JOSEPHINE HUSS

Not until the church records were found was it realized that Aunt Sophie (sometimes Sophia) who was born in Royaltown PA on 2 Jun 1892 was baptized on 26 Jun 1892 by Father Kenny as Josephine. Perhaps she adopted Sophie because the sponsors at her baptism were Ernes T. & Sophia Knipe.

In 1910 Aunt Sophie was living at home and working in the cigar factory. In 1911 or 12 she married Chester Taylor Garrett who was born 27 Jan 1891 in Columbia PA, the son of Henry & Mary E Garrett. As a kid I remember Aunt Sophie as a very pretty, very well-dressed and very proper lady. Perhaps fastidious is a better word. Unlike Aunt Lizzie, she didn't seem to find much enjoyment in life.

They always lived in Harrisburg. When Uncle Chet registered for the draft in WWI and in the 1920 US Census they were living on Howard St in Harrisburg, but by 1930 had moved to Naudian St. At least until 1942 he worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad as a brakeman. Until that time their address was given as Naudain St, in Harrisburg PA, but on his WWII draft registration that address was crossed out and Oak St, Harrisburg, PA was substituted. Along the way he and Aunt Sophie split. Aunt Sophie kept "boarders" according to family lore and her last years were not happy ones. She died in the Harrisburg State Hospital on 12 Dec 1943. Uncle Chet died penniless sometime after 1945.

They had one son Russell who was born 11 Oct 1912. Russell married Sarah Agnes Henry born 22 Sep 1915, the daughter of Samuel and Anna L Henry of N Middleton Twp, Cumberland County PA. They too lived in Harrisburg where they raised three children Juna, Suzanne and Jan. Russell died 15 Oct 1990 and his wife Sarah on 10 Mar 1999. Along with Aunt Sophie, they are buried in Rolling Green Cemetery in Camp Hill PA.

Opposite:

Uncle Chet with Russell c/1915

Uncle Chet, Aunt Sophie & Russell
c/1915

Russell with children - Jan, Juna
& Suzanne 1948

Uncle Chet & Aunt Sophie c/1910



Aunt Sophie & Russell c/1915



Aunt Elizabeth & Uncle Bill with Mary, Dorothy & Betty



Uncle Bill & Aunt Elizabeth



Uncle Bill with the big ones!



Uncle Bill
Aunt Elizabeth
Betty, Mary &
Dorothy

WILLIAM JACOB HUSS

William, known as Bill, was born 17 Jan 1897 in Royalton PA and baptized by Father James M Barr, as Gulielmum (Latin for William) on 31 Jan 1897. Thank goodness he didn't decide to use Gulielmum all his life. He got his education at Geyer's School and was still in school in 1910. When Uncle Bill registered for the draft in WWI he was still living at home and was working at Bethlehem Steel Co in Steelton PA. He was drafted on 5 Sep 1918 and sent to Camp Greenleaf, Lytle GA for training. He later served overseas as a cook for a repair outfit in Paris, France. By Jan 1920, the US Census shows him living at home again and working as a "laborer in the car shops." That was a thriving business in Middletown. In 1930 he was an "electrician" at Metropolitan Edison Company power plant in Middletown and retired from there as a "switchboard operator." In 1943 he was honored for having no "Lost Time Accidents" for the previous 10 years. Before and after retirement one of Uncle Bill's pleasures was fishing.

On 23 Dec 1920 Uncle Bill married Elizabeth Snyder who was born 12 Feb 1895, the daughter of John and Rebecca Boeshore Snyder of Derry Twp, Dauphin County PA. They lived on Ann St and Union St in Middletown before moving to High St. where they lived the rest of their lives. They had three daughters:

Betty Mae (19 Aug 1922-9 Aug 1987) who married Jacob Nagel and had one son William Jacob.

Mary Ellen (17 May 1924-26 Mar 1980) who married John Mason (10 Aug 1924-19 Aug 2008) and had one daughter Rebecca.

Dorothy Caroline (9 Jan 1926-living) who married Donald B Kaylor (15 Dec 1926-20 Mar 1998) and had one daughter Donnette.

Uncle Bill died on 30 Dec 1970 and Aunt Elizabeth four years later on 29 Jan 1974. They are buried in Hillsdale Cemetery.



Uncle Bill 1918-1919
with note on the reverse:
"give one of these to Joe
and tell him he hasn't
wrote yet,"

Joe & Emma enjoying
a slice of watermelon



Below Joe the Legionaire
1953



Joe with the big one!



Joe and Emma with Geraldine
left, Arlene right, Elise and
Joe in front

JOHN HUSS

John, born 24 Jun 1895 in Royalton PA, was baptized by Father James M Barr on 6 Jul 1895. He died less than a year later on 8 Mar 1896 and is buried in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Middletown PA

JOSEPH JACOB HUSS

Joseph, my father, born in Royalton PA on 15 Apr 1899 was baptized 23 Apr 1899 by Father P J Costigan. He attended Geyers School through the fifth grade then went to work as a "drover" for a cattle dealer in Middletown. He was a chauffeur in the Army for almost a year from Jun 1918 to May 1919. He lived at home in 1920 and was working as butcher for J C Landis of Middletown.

On 17 Jul 1920 Joseph, known as Joe, married Emma Rider, born 11 Sep 1893, the daughter of John and Amanda Metzger Rider. After he married, Joseph spent most of his life as a salesman in the meat business working for Vogt's in Royalton, Swift & Co, Harrisburg, Rath Packing Co, Harrisburg, Kunzler's in Lancaster and found time to get his high school diploma at night school in 1943. As sales territories were changed, the family moved often and lived in Middletown, Lebanon, Lancaster, Londonderry Twp and Hummelstown PA. With limited meat to sell during WWII Joe worked at the Middletown Air Service Command. From 1946-1954 he operated Center Square Meat Market and Grocery Store in Hummelstown PA, but had to retire due to poor health.

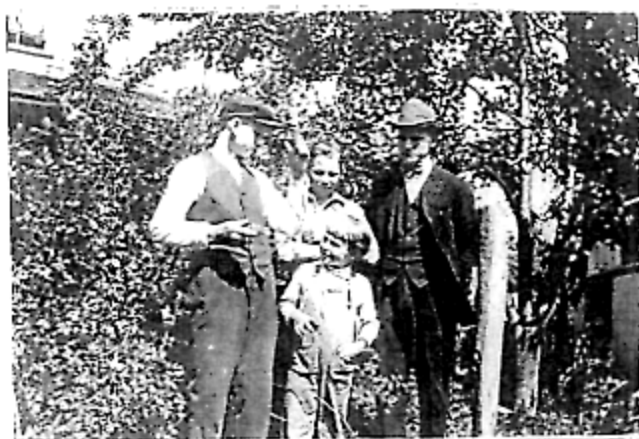
Like Uncle Bill, he too was an avid fisherman. He was also an avid member of the American Legion serving in many capacities and eventually became Central Vice-Commander for Pennsylvania. He and Emma had four children: Arlene Rider (20 Feb 1922-living) single, Geraldine Rider (1923-25 Jun 1961-4 Nov 1995) who married Raymond Testa, Joseph Jacob Jr (20 Aug 1925-25 Mar 1985) who married three times to Laverne Taylor, Virginia Doyle and Olga Matlak and Elise Rider (19 Sep 1926-17 Feb 1998). Joe Jr's son Joseph Jacob Huss III is the only grandchild.

Joseph Huss Sr died 26 Sep 1955 of a heart attack and Emma died 14 Jun 1980. Both are buried in Hillsdale Cemetery.



Joe in the Army 1918-19

Right Uncle Jake with hat &
Uncle Pete with cap



Above and right:
Uncle Jake alone/ with
daughter Jean in CA 1947
and nephew Joseph Jr 1943



JACOB JOSEPH HUSS

Jacob Joseph was also born in Royalton PA on 2 Apr 1901 and was baptized 14 Apr 1901 by Father Clement Burger. As a young man Uncle Jake, as he was known, also worked as a "drover" for a cattle dealer near Middletown. By 1920 his occupation was given as "butcher in a slaughter house." That was his life's work. In the 1930s and 1940s he operated a peddle truck in Middletown selling meat door-to-door. Eventually he opened a combination grocery store and meat market, doing most of his own killing. Brothers Joe and Pete would sometimes help with the butchering and they all delighted in being able to attach a pig tail to one another without getting caught.

About 1922 Uncle Jake married Anna Landis, born 6 Mar 1894, the daughter of William and Hannah Landis of North Londonderry Twp Lebanon County PA and ten years later of Derry Twp, Dauphin County. Uncle Jake and Aunt Anna lived on Water and on Race Streets in Middletown, PA. As a young woman Aunt Anna worked as a drug store clerk and after she married in a hosiery mill. When she learned Uncle Jake was gambling away their hard-earned money, she went to the gambling place, brought him home and gave him the choice between her or gambling. She won.

Uncle Jake's business was quite successful, but as time went on he developed serious back problems and despite surgery, suffered a great deal. He became quite despondent and unfortunately committed suicide on 20 Nov 1951 at age 50. He and Aunt Anna had two children: Jean (6 Jan 1925-11 Oct 2005) and an unnamed daughter who was stillborn in 1930. Jean married Richard Thomas (30 Jun 1928-11 Sep 1969) and had two children Lynn Ann and Mark. Aunt Anna died 18 Oct 1972. They are all buried in the Middletown Cemetery.



Geyer's School Photo 1909
Jacob far right bottom row
at age 7

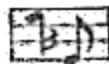
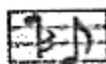


Uncle Pete in his Sunday best
and with his horse

Schnitzelbank

DRINKING SONG

IST DAS NICHT EIN SCHNITZEL BANK?
JA DAS IST EIN SCHNITZEL BANK



WENN DIESE ZEICHEN MIT DEN RICHTIGEN TONEN
ZUSAMMENGELESEN WERDEN, ERHALTEN SIE DIE RICHTIGE BEDEUTUNG

Uncle Pete & Aunt Lizzie



EMMA HUSS

Emma was born about the time the family moved to Londonderry Twp on 23 Mar 1903. She was baptized by Father H M Hertzog on 17 May 1903 and died two years later on 11 Apr 1905. She was buried in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Middletown.

PETER JAMES HUSS

Peter James was born soon after his sister Emma died on 26 Jun 1905 and was baptized by Father Herzog on 8 Jul 1905. The earliest record of Uncle Pete is as a student on a Geyer's School photo of 1915. By 1920 he was still living at home at age 15 with no occupation given but with everyone else in the family working elsewhere he was probably busy with chores at home.

On 21 May 1927 Uncle Peter married Martha Elizabeth Kugle, born 26 Apr 1911 the daughter of James L and Sarah E Kugle of Royalton PA. They went to housekeeping "out home" and Granny lived with them and would visit her other children occasionally. They lived there for some time even after Grandpa and Granny died. I loved visiting Uncle Pete when he worked as a short-order cook at the Willow Brook Diner on the Harrisburg Pike because we always got something tasty and because eating out was indeed a novelty in those days. With no children of their own he and Aunt Martha gave us little gifts from time to time. I remember one Christmas very well when I received from them a little heart-shaped cedar box with a mirror in the lid which was filled with four wrapped English walnuts and a dime. Another memory when the family gathered "out home" was Uncle Pete hanging up his "Schnitzelbank" chart and we'd all sing, or try to sing, "ei du schoene, ei du schoene, ei du schoene schnitzelbank". [Go online to find a couple good versions of the chart and music.]

In the 1930 census Uncle Peter was a salesman in the brush industry..probably the Fuller Brush Co whose salesmen sold household items door-to-door. He also worked for both Uncle Jake and my Dad when they had their meat market-grocery stores. His last job was selling beauty supplies. Aunt Martha became a beautician in the late 1930s and opened her own shop "Martha's Beauty Salon" on Water St in Middletown on 27 Feb 1940. That assured her an income because all his life Uncle Peter liked to play the ponies.

Uncle Peter died 12 Mar 1968 and was buried in Hillsdale Cemetery. Sometime in 1969 Aunt Martha married Fred Tenley, a widower whose wife had died in 1968. After he retired from Met Ed in Middletown in 1971, they moved to Huntingdon PA where they both died; he in Jan 1981 and Aunt Martha on 13 May 2010 at 99 years old.



Uncle Peter shoveling snow
"out home"



FAMILY PORTRAIT 1937

Left to right

Front row: Dorothy, Mary, Joseph Jr, Elise & Jean Huss

Second row: William Huss, Mary Huss Boyer, Elizabeth Huss Peters
Sophie Huss Garrett & Jacob Huss

Third row: Peter Huss, Elizabeth Snyder Huss, Betty Huss, Martha
Kugle Huss, Anna Landis Huss & Joseph Huss

Top row: John Peters Jr, Emma Rider Huss, Russell's girlfriend,
Russell Garrett, John Peters Sr, Geraldine & Arlene Huss

POSTSCRIPT

Seems to me we owe a big debt of thanks to the people who went before us. Starting as tenant farmers who were courageous enough to look for something better in a strange land, they and their children with only limited educations, overcame language barriers and worked hard. Despite many personal problems and tough times and living through two World Wars and the Great Depression, they moved onward and upward and left us good genes. Now it's our turn!

SOURCES:

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Naturalization Petition for John Hus, 27 Jan 1890
Naturalization Order for John Hus to the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Dauphin, 10 Jun 1895
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News items and obits from the Harrisburg Patriot News and Evening News, the Middletown Press & Journal, the Lebanon Daily News, the Hummelstown Sun and the Huntingdon Daily News.
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