

**December 31, 1869
North-Central Slovakia**

A SNAPSHOT
of the parents of
Nick Dutko and Sophie Popovich

by Vic Berecz



Nick Dutko and Sophie Popovich
about 1953

Author's Preface

December 31, 1869 was an important date in northern Hungary – the area that now is the nation of Slovakia. It was *Census Day*, and this was certainly the most thorough census ever undertaken in the area. Nick Dutko and Sophie Popovich were the great-great-grandparents of my grandchildren Marc, Casey, and Sydney Tomljanovic. Nick and Sophie were not born yet in 1869, but their parents were young adults who lived in three households in two Slovak villages in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains. It is the census records of those three households that are the centerpiece of this little book, and they shed a lot of light on how our ancestors lived in those forested mountain villages 140 years ago.

In 1869, four languages were commonly spoken in the area where the Dutko and Popovich families lived: Magyar (Hungarian), Slovak, German, and Rusyn (a dialect of Ukrainian written in the Cyrillic alphabet). Therefore, in the various records the names of both people and towns were spelled multiple ways. In fact, in Nick and Sophie's birth records their names were spelled Miklos Dutka and Zsófia Popovics. For the sake of simplicity, I will always spell family names the way Nick and Sophie spelled them after coming to the United States and I'll usually use the English translation of given names. Also, I will spell the names of towns as they are spelled today in Slovak, so their location can be easily found on any modern roadmap.

Sophie came to the U.S. in 1907, and Nick in 1908. This was a time of massive emigration from impoverished northern Hungary to America. These immigrants didn't find streets paved in gold, but they found coal mines and steel mills where hard work allowed them to build a good life for their children and children's children. Nick and Sophie obviously knew each other in Europe, but it was in Johnstown, Pennsylvania where they married in 1911 and raised their family.

Finally, I'd like to dedicate this book to Marc, Casey, and Sydney ... may they someday read these words, contemplate the lessons of history, and appreciate the importance of family.

Vic Berecz aka *Nagy*



Marc, Casey, and Sydney Tomljanovic in November 2008.

Setting the Stage -- The Place

19th century Hungary was a geographically large nation covering much of central Europe. It was multi-ethnic and probably provided the greatest degree of religious freedom in Europe. But, the nation was economically backward and – especially in the north and east – terribly impoverished.

The families we are learning about lived in what was then Szepes, the northernmost county in central Hungary, dominated by the Tatra range of the Carpathian mountains. They lived in an area of forested rolling hills called the Spis region or low Tatras, to distinguish them from the snow-capped high Tatras further north on the border with Galicia. The principal town of the area is the old royal free city of Levoca. Its church and town hall are seen here.



In discussing the family, we will mention six villages located about 12 miles northeast of Levoca, and all within a five miles of each other. Their Slovak names are Podproc, Pavlány, Olsavica, Nizné Repase, Vysné Repase, and Brutovce. Two of our three households were located in Podproc, the other was in Pavlány.

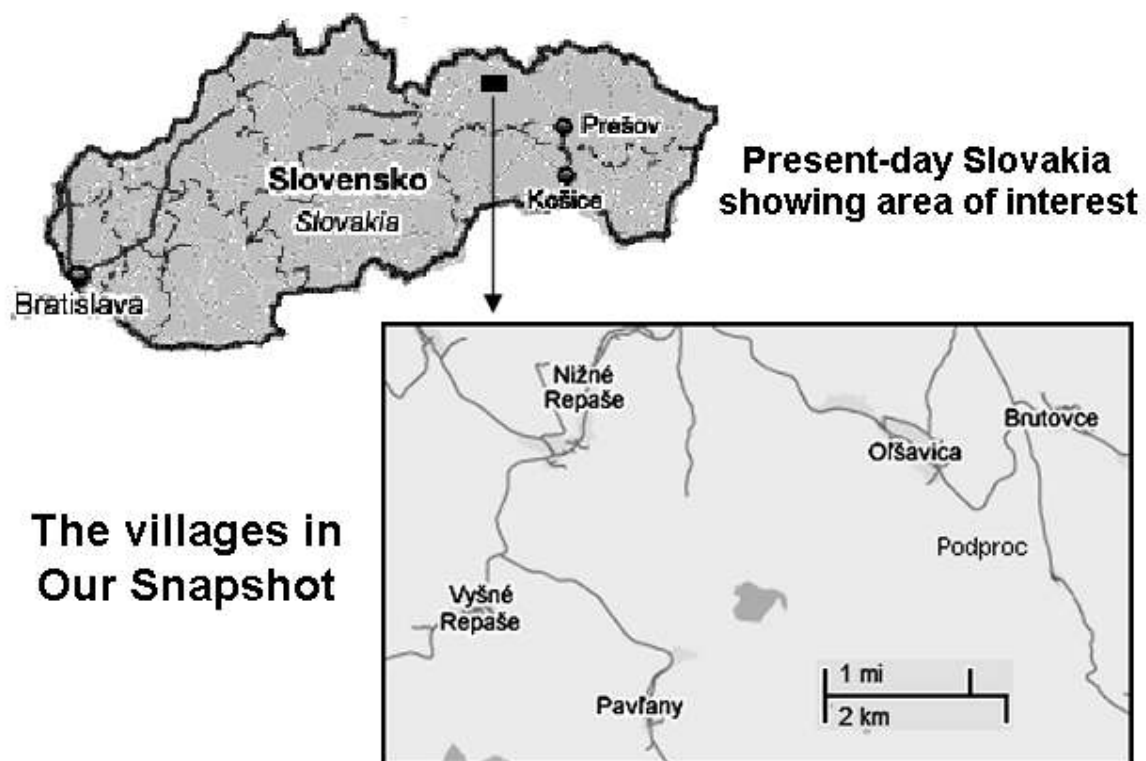
The Spis region was, and still is, heavily forested. Most men worked their small farms and also seasonally hired themselves out as lumberjacks. Family lore tells us that the village of Podproc was largely burnt to the ground by a forest fire in the early 20th century, and subsequently abandoned. A reference to it on the Internet describes it as an “abandoned *Village of Ghosts*.” Note that the church building in Podproc (seen on page 12) was a so-called *daughter-church* of the Roman Catholic church in neighboring Brutovce – so, occasional masses were celebrated in Podproc with the Brutovce priest officiating.

The village of Olsavica is famed for its 14th century Greek Catholic church of Saint Mikulas, shown here. The Olsavica church dates from 1325, and is surrounded by low ramparts to provide some protection in the event of a pagan invasion – it was assumed that Christian invaders wouldn’t attack a church. The building itself has narrow-slits for windows, so if the enemy breeched the walls, the people could lock themselves in the sanctuary and fire arrows at the invaders through those slits. The doors show carvings by Turkish soldiers, who got that far, but no further.



A second Greek Catholic church in the area is in Nizné Repase. The villages of Vysné Repase and Brutovce housed the two Roman Catholic churches of the area. The church building in Pavlány was a *daughter-church* to Vysné Repase. The villages in this area are well-known for their fine old wooden homes, which are particularly notable in Nizné Repase and Brutovce.

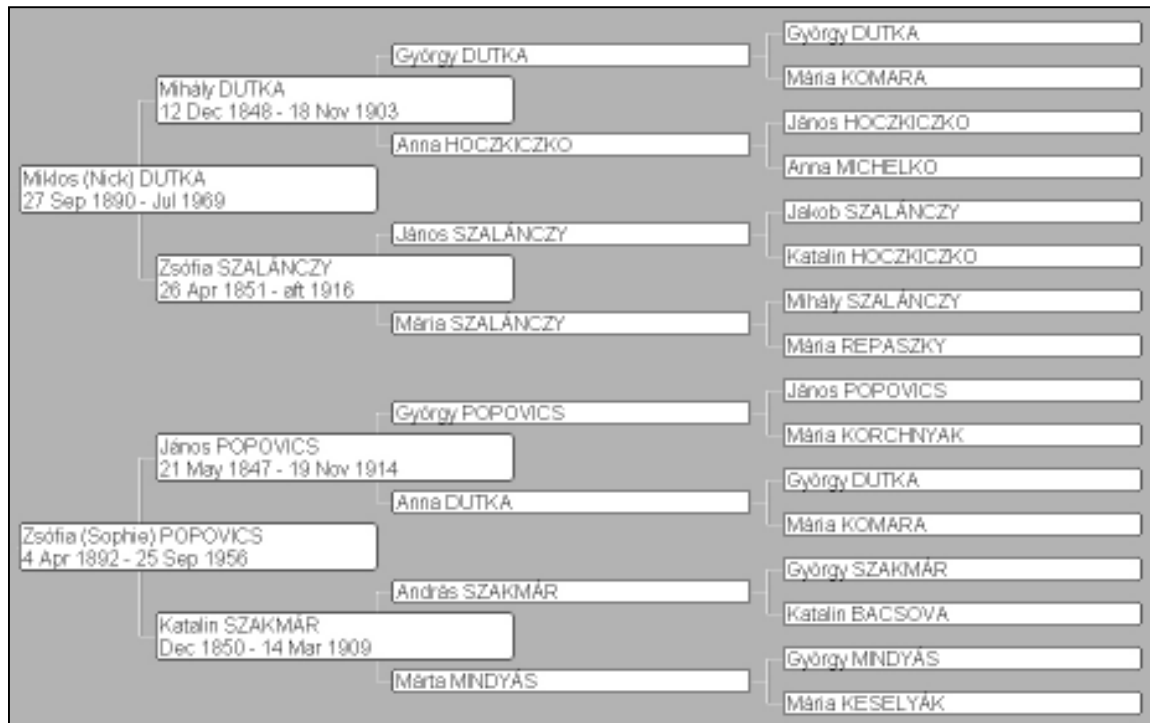
Below are maps which put into perspective the area we are talking about.



Setting the Stage -- The People

As previously noted, in 1869 Nick and Sophie were not yet born. So it is the four parents of this couple that we will find living as young adults in the census records. Illustrated below is a part of the family tree of Nick and Sophie.

Notice in the family tree that Nick and Sophie had a pair of great-grandparents in common – George Dutko and Mary Komara. So, they were second cousins ... their fathers Mike Dutko and John Popovich were first cousins and neighbors. Marriage between second cousins was a common occurrence in the close-knit rural communities of central Europe.



The four people we will learn about in the census of 1869 are Nick and Sophie's parents:

Mike Dutko was 21 years old, living with his parents in Podproc house #6 where he helped his father operate the family farm. His father was Greek Catholic, his mother a Roman Catholic born in Brutovce. In keeping with the customs of the times, sons were raised in their father's religion, daughters in their mother's.

Sophie Salanci was 18 years old and lived with her extended family on their farm at Pavlány house #3. This family were all Roman Catholic. Sophie and Mike were second cousins, according to the record of their marriage, as we shall see.

John Popovich was a 22 year-old orphan living and working as a farm laborer on what had been his parent's farm at Podproc house #1. This farm was now owned by his sister Anna and her husband John Keselyak. This family were all Greek Catholic.

Kate Sakmar was a 19 year-old orphan born in Nizné Repase, who lived with the Dutko family at Podproc house #6, and was employed as their servant. She was a Greek Catholic. Her ancestry is the most problematical of these people because the family relocated, there were many Sakmar's in neighboring towns, and some changed their name to Lukács.

Setting the Stage -- The Times

Hungary was a multi-ethnic kingdom which, despite having the Austrian Catholic Habsburg family as its elected rulers for centuries, took pride in its independence and peculiar institutions – including significant freedom of religion (for the time). The failure of the 1848-49 uprising against the Habsburgs, led by Lajos Kossuth, resulted in the virtual occupation of Hungary by Austria until 1867. Then a noble experiment was undertaken that lasted a half-century ... the *Austro-Hungarian Empire* was established.

The so-called *Dual Monarchy* was two independent nations, Austria and Hungary, each with their own legislatures and laws, having a common ruler and limited common administration. Each of the two nations contributed a fixed percentage to the costs of the common functions. The terms of the relationships between the two nations were renegotiated each decade. Hungary's increasing influence led to a campaign of *magyarization* in the Hungarian part of the Empire that was much resented by the minorities of that nation – including the Slovaks and Ruthenes (now called Rusyns) of the north and northeast.

The families we're discussing lived in Szepes County, a mixed area of Slovaks, Ruthenes, and Magyars with Germans and Jews in the larger towns. The Slovaks and Ruthenes of the area adhered largely to the Greek Catholic faith – as did three of our four highlighted people. The Magyars were predominantly Roman Catholic with a few Protestants thrown in. What was called *Greek Catholic* in Hungary, and called *Uniate* elsewhere, is a Byzantine rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore marriages between Roman and Greek Catholics, such as the ones that occurred in our snapshot families, did not have the stigma of “mixed marriage” associated with them, as did marriages between Catholics and Protestants.

The historic feudalism of Hungary had been slowly disintegrating since the late 18th century. Feudalism was officially abolished in 1848, causing much land to be divided into tiny farms (called *small-holdings*) owned by the peasants who worked them. But, especially in the mountainous north, the farmland was marginal and the farms soon became insufficient to support growing families.

The economic circumstances in northern Hungary rapidly deteriorated as the 19th century progressed. There were no “safety nets.” Death by starvation or freezing was a reality that hit all too many families. The infant mortality rate skyrocketed. Many young adults moved to thriving Budapest ... the men to labor in the factories, the women to serve as domestics in the homes of the more affluent. Szepes County lost a significant percentage of its population in the period between 1869 and 1900.

In the United States, strikes and riots by Irish coal miners (the *Molly McGuires*, etc.) in the late 1870s led mine owners to look to central Europe for low-paid, hard-working, non-English-speaking men to compliantly operate their mines. Recruiters were sent to Europe to encourage immigration to the American “streets paved with gold.” By the early 1890s, a massive emigration from northern and eastern Hungary to the U.S. was underway – often to the mines and mills of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Over 120,000 Hungarians emigrated to Pennsylvania alone. During much of the first decade of the 20th century, Hungary was the number one origin of immigrants to the United States.

So this is the world we find emerging when we look at the *Census of 1869*.

The Dutka House – Podproc #6

The village of Podproc consisted of 12 farms and the church building, which was a daughter church of the Roman Catholic church in Brutovce. In 1869, the total population was 87. The census forms in Podproc were prepared using the Magyar language.

The People. According to the census form – a part of which is reproduced below -- five people lived on this farm that was identified as Podproc house #6. The owner was a Greek Catholic smallholder born in 1814 in Podproc whose name was George Dutko; his wife, a Roman Catholic woman born in 1813 in Brutovce whose maiden name was Anna Hockicko (this name was also written Kicko); their two sons, and a servant girl. None of the people in the household could read or write.

1.	Dutka György	1	—	1814	G. Kath.	házas	Telkesgárda.
2.	Hockicko Anna neje	—	1.	1813	R. Kath.	—	Telkesneje
3.	Anna ferjelet Győző, leány	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Elisabet ferjelet Tudárka, leány	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	György fia	1	—	1846	G. Kath.	—	—
6.	Mihály fia	1	—	1848	G. Kath.	—	földművelő
7.	Sakmar Katalin szolgája.	—	1.	1853	G. Kath.	—	szolgái

I believe the couple had a total of eleven children, including two sets of twins. But, only four children lived to adulthood. In 1869, daughter Anna, born in 1839, was living with her husband in Podproc house #2. Daughter Elisabeth, a twin born in 1842, was living with her husband in Pavlány. These daughters are noted on the census form, but are not counted. The couple's elder son, George, was born in 1846 and for census purposes resided on the family farm, but he was away serving in the Army.

Their younger son, Michael was born in 1848 and was a helper on the farm. Four older children, and their three youngest children had all died prior to the census and so are not identified on the form.

The servant girl was named Katharine Sakmar, and (according to the form) was a Greek Catholic born in 1853 in Nizné Repase. It was not unusual for people, even of modest means, to take on as servants the children of neighbors or orphans. It was sort of an apprenticeship. I believe the birth date for Katharine recorded in the census is incorrect. Her age as recorded in both her marriage and death records indicate that she was born in 1850. So far, I've been unable to confirm this with an actual birth/baptismal record.

Here is a overview of the entire Dutko family:

George Dutko (1814-1870)
Anna Hockicko (born 1812)
George (1834-1835)
Anna (born 1839)
Elisabeth (1841-c1841)
Martha (1841-1842)
Peter (1843-1843)
Elisabeth (born 1843)
George (born 1846)
Michael (1848-1903)
Maria (1850-1850)
Maria (1853-1854)
Nicolas (1855-1865)

Note that the names George, Elisabeth, and Maria were each used twice. It was common practice to reuse a name if a child died, especially if the name had a significant family context ... as did George in this case.

As we will see, Michael Dutko would become the father of Nick Dutko and Katharine Sakmar, the servant, would become the mother of Sophie Popovich.

The House. All the houses in Podproc were very simple affairs, a single level with essentially one large room for living, eating, and sleeping. The Dutko house had a separate pantry, probably a large closet that was separated to keep the stores of food away from the heat of the fire. Typically, cooking was done year-round in an out-building ... many old houses in rural Slovakia still have these facilities which are now used as “summer kitchens.” In addition to the living space, there were facilities associated with the business (in this case the farm). The Dutko family had a cellar (probably a “root cellar”), an implement shed, and a barn with a storehouse and two stalls for livestock. The census did not indicate the size of the landholdings.

The Livestock. The Dutko family owned two cows ... one Hungarian (long-horned) and one Swiss (similar to the short-horned milk cows we are accustomed to), and three Swiss calves. Apparently they borrowed a bull from time-to-time. They also had five sheep, two of which were *select* – i.e. purebred – and three which were *common*. And, they owned six pigs. They also probably had a multitude of chickens and other fowl, but these were not included on the census.

Note that they didn’t own horses. So they either used a cow to plow their fields, or more likely, they hired a neighbor with a horse to help them with the plowing. Even today in Slovakia, horses are loaned around to plow the garden plots.

The Salanci House – Pavlány #3

The village of Pavlány consisted of 32 farms and the church building, which was a daughter church of the Roman Catholic church in Vysné Repase. In 1869, the total population was 293. About half the houses in Pavlány included people with the surname Salanci ... probably all somehow related. This census form was prepared using the Slovak language.

The People. According to the census form, eight people lived on the farm that was identified as Pavlány house #3. All were born in that village. The owner was a smallholder by the name of John (Janko) Salanci. Both he and his wife Maria were Roman Catholic. There are small discrepancies in both John and Maria's birth dates. The reason for these differences is unknown, but their death records make it apparent we've got the right people. Her maiden name was Maria Salanci (according to their 1834 marriage record, they were 2nd cousins). Also listed are their four youngest unmarried children, and a daughter (Apollonia) and her husband. None of the people in this family could read or write.

John and Sophie Salanci had a total of eight children. Their three oldest daughters, one of which died in childbirth in 1867 at age 25, all married locally and are not listed on this census form. A copy of part of the original census record is shown here. Note that totals for the household are given: number of families, people, males, and females.

1	Salanci Janko	1	1870	rim. Kath.	manžel	Sedliach
2	Salanci Maria	1	1813	rim. Kath.	manželka	Sedliach
3	Salanci Stefan	1	1848	rim. Kath.	samotai	sin
4	Salanci Sofia	1	1857	rim. Kath.	samotai	dzivota
5	Salanci Anna	1	1855	rim. Kath.	—	dzivota
6	Salanci Alaba	1	1860	rim. Kath.	—	dzivota
7	Lipray Georg	1	1844	rim. Kath.	manžel	Sedliach
8	Salanci Apollonia	1	1846	rim. Kath.	manželka	Sedliach
9	2	3	5			

There were two families living in the house. Two or more families living together, especially if they were related, was quite common even for one-room houses. Sometimes as many as five families with more than 20 people lived on a single farm. In some cases there were more than one house on a property, but we did not have that situation in the families discussed here.

Here is a overview of the entire Salanci family:

John Salanci (1813-1883)
Maria Salanci (1814-1883)
Agnes (born 1836)
Maria (born 1838)
Victoria (1841-1867)
Apollonia (born 1844)
Stephen (born 1848)
Sophia (born 1851)
Anna (born 1854)
Elisabeth (born 1859)

As we will see, Sophie Salanci married Mike Dutko in 1870 and would become the mother of Nick Dutko. She was still alive in 1916, when her youngest daughter married in Johnstown, PA.

The House. The Salanci house had two rooms, plus a separate pantry. In this respect it was larger than most peasant homes in the area. There was a sleeping room, and a kitchen within the house where cooking and eating probably took place. For their farming facilities, the Salanci family had a cellar, an implement shed, and a barn with a storehouse and a stall and a sheepfold for livestock.

The Livestock. The Salanci's owned two long-horned Hungarian cows and one calf. They also had eight common sheep. Other than fowl, these were their only animals. It is rather unusual that the family owned no pigs.



(L-R) The Roman Catholic Church in Vysné Repase; recent photo of Brutovce; and old wooden house in Brutovce

The Popovich House – Podproc #1

As previously noted, the village of Podproc had only 12 farms and a total population of 87. George Popovich took formal ownership of this property in 1848 when feudal rights were abolished. But, he died in 1854, and shortly thereafter his daughter Anna married John Keselyak who assumed ownership of the farm. While it was legally possible for a woman to own property in Hungary, unlike much of the 19th century world, it was normal for the husband to take ownership of his wife's property on marriage ... as was the case here.

The People. According to the census form, seven people lived on the farm that was identified as Podproc house #1. Two others are mentioned, but not counted. All except the property owner himself were born in Podproc. The owner was a Greek Catholic smallholder by the name of John Keselyak who was born in Olsavica in 1833. His wife was Anna Popovich, born in 1839. In 1869, they had three young children: Anna, Michael, and John. Also living on the farm, and employed as a farm laborer was the unmarried brother-in-law of the owner, John Popovich born in 1847. Finally, there was a 15-year old neighbor boy named Joseph Staviscák from Podproc house #5, who was employed as a servant. The two people listed, but not counted were the sister-in-law of the owner, Maria Popovich, who though married in 1864 was identified as a servant in the large nearby city of Eperjes. Why her husband Steve Lukács was not identified (as were the house #6 brothers-in-law) is unknown. The other person mentioned is another brother-in-law of the owner, George Popovich, who was also employed in Eperjes. This George is an enigma to me, since I've found no record of his birth. But, the likely date of his birth is between 1844 and 1846. A copy of the census record is shown below.

1	1	Keselyak János	1	—	1833	Gör. Kelt.	házas.	Telkesgárd.
	2	Popovich Anna néje.	—	1.	1839.	Gör. Kelt.	—	Telkesnéje.
	3.	Anna leánya.	—	1.	1861.	Gör. Kelt.	—	—
	4.	Miklós fia.	1.	—	1865.	Gör. Kelt.	—	—
	5	János fia.	1.	—	1867.	Gör. Kelt.	—	—
	6.	Popovich János szolgája.	1.	—	1847.	Gör. Kelt.	nőtlen.	háldmivelo'
	7.	Popovich Maria szolgánije.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	Popovich György szolgája.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9.	Staviscák szolga.	1.	—	1854.	Gör. Kelt.	—	szolga.

One thing was unusual about this family, compared to other peasant families of the time in rural Slovakia. A member of this household could read! This was the smallholder's wife, Anna Popovich. But, it was noted on the census form that she could not write.

Here is an overview of the entire Popovics family that lived in Podproc house #1 until the deaths of the parents:

As we will see, John Popovics married Kate Sakmar in 1870 and would become the father of

George Popovics (1814-1854)
Anna Dutko (1816-1848)
Maria (1835-c1836)
Maria (born 1837)
Anna (1839-1891)
Elisabeth (1842-1842)
George (born c1845)
John (1847-1914)
Elisabeth (born 1847)

Sophie Popovich. Note that he was a twin.

The House. The Keselyak house, where John Popovich lived in 1869, had only a single room with not even a separate pantry. Their farming facilities included the standard cellar, implement shed, and a barn with a storehouse and two stalls. They also had a sheepfold for livestock.

The Livestock. They owned two long-horned Hungarian calves and one Swiss cow with two calves. They also had five common sheep and a pig. Like most farmers, they also probably had many fowl that provided both meat and eggs.



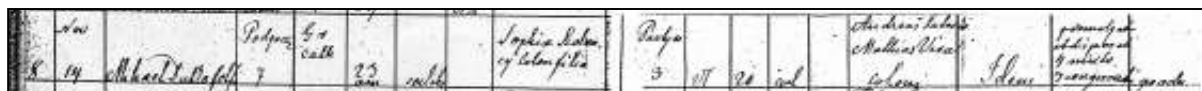
Above: Sign directing hikers to Podproc ... the *Village of Ghosts*.

Right: The ruins of the church in the abandoned village of Podproc.



Then on into the Future

Within a year of the 1869 census, both couples had married. **Michael Dutka and Sophie Salanci** were married in the Roman Catholic Church in Vysné Repase on November 14, 1870. This church is pictured on page 9. The witnesses were Andrew Tatarko and Matthew Vira. Below is the record of this marriage copied from the church register.



Note that, at the right, the register indicates that the couple needed a dispensation to marry because they were related in the 4th/7th degree of *consanguinity* ... that is, they were 2nd cousins. That means its four generations up to a common ancestor, seven generations counting up to the common ancestor and then down to the spouse. For this to be the case, the John and Kate Hockicko seen on the page 4 family tree must be siblings ... though I've been unable to prove this. In 19th century Hungary, dispensations were obtained through the office of the *álsipán*, the lieutenant-governor of the county. They were required if the couple were 2nd cousins or closer, or (prior to 1848) if the bride was marrying outside the county.

The marriage register shows Michael living in house #7. Earlier in 1870, Mike's father had died. Over the years, Mike and Sophie lived in both house #6 and #7. They had a total of ten children, six of whom (including son Nick) emigrated to Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

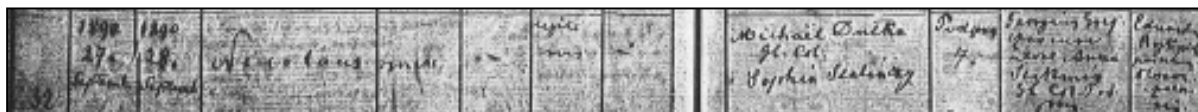
In the listing of Mike and Sophie's family below, their children who emigrated to Johnstown are indicated by an asterisk, though Anna later returned to Slovakia. It's also interesting that Anna married a man from Olsavica named John Keselyak-Demo in Johnstown in 1899. They had a son John there, went back to Europe in 1903, had another child, and the father

soon died. Anna then married her late husband's cousin who was also named John Keselyak-Demo. The son John, born in Johnstown in 1902, returned to the U.S. in 1924 as a natural-born American citizen, and at the time of the 1930 U.S. Census was living as a lodger with his uncle Nick Dutko in Brownstown.

Michael Dutko (1848-1903)
 Sophie Salanci (born 1851)
 Maria (born 1873)
 *Mike (born 1876)
 *Anna (1878-1948)
 Elizabeth (born 1880)
 *Helena (1883-1964)
 John (born 1885)
 George (1888-1932)
 *Nick (1890-1969)
 *Kate (born 1893)
 *Sophie (1896-1985)

Nick Dutko was born in Podproc on September 27, 1890 and died in Johnstown in 1969. He immigrated to the U.S. on the S.S. Slavonia, arriving at Ellis Island on November 5, 1908. The ship's manifest shown on pages 17 and 18, gives his home as Lazonpatak (the Magyar name for Podproc) and his destination was as his sister Ilona (Helen) in Johnstown.

Below is his birth/baptismal record from the Greek Catholic church in Olsavica. His godparents were George Grajczar and his wife Anna Sakmar of Podproc.



John Popovich and Kate Sakmar were married the same day as Mike and Sophie, November 14, 1870, but at the Greek Catholic Church in Olsavica, pictured on page 2. The witnesses were his two brothers-in-law, John Keselyak-Demo and Steve Lukács. Below is the record of this marriage copied from that church register.

4	1870	Joannes Popovic orphanus	Podproc	8. c.	24	1	—	Joannes Veselak Demo Edm. Keselyak-Demo
	14 ^a	Catharina Sakmar orphan.	Podproc	8. c.	20	1	—	Stephano Lukacs Marta Kozak Vrh jezuit.

They lived and worked for several years at Podproc house #2, owned by John Grajczar and his wife Anna Dutka (Mike's sister). Later they moved back to house #1. They had a total of eleven children, four dying in childhood and five who emigrated to Johnstown. In the family listing below, those who emigrated to Johnstown are indicated by an asterisk, though John

John Popovich (1847-1914)
 Kate Sakmar (1850-1909)
 Joseph (1873-1876)
 *John (1875-1946)
 Maria (1877-c1915)
 Anna (1880-1882)
 *George (1883-c1908)
 *Mike (born 1885)
 Kate (1888-1888)
 Elisabeth (born 1889)
 *Sophie (1892-1956)
 *Anna (1894-1973)
 Andrew (1897-1901)

returned to Podproc.

An interesting sidelight is that George Popovich (a son of John and Kate) married a woman from Podproc in Johnstown in 1904. Her name was Maria Lanko-Gorbar. They had a child in Pennsylvania and the father soon died there. Maria went back to Slovakia and married John Dutka, a son of Mike and Sophie. So that's another connection between the Dutka and Popovich families.

Sophie Popovich was born in Podproc on April 4, 1892 and died in Johnstown in 1956. According to her statement on the 1930 census, she immigrated to the U.S. in 1907. At the time of her marriage, she was a domestic servant, but after the birth of her first child she was a full-time homemaker, which was normal for that period. Below is her birth/baptismal entry from the registers of the Greek Catholic church in Olsavica. Her godparents were John Zamuzsecky and his wife Anna Grajczar of Olsavica.

1892	1892	Sophie	—	from	legitima	—	Joannes Popovic H. c. c. Catharina Sakmar	Podproc	Joannes Popovic matusin matusin matusin matusin matusin	Edmund Popovic matusin matusin matusin matusin
4	5							2		

Nick Dutko and Sophie Popovich married in Johnstown on August 10, 1911. We don't know how well they knew each other in Podproc ... but in a village of only 12 houses, they were obviously acquainted. According to their Cambria County marriage license application, both were 21 years of age. They fibbed a bit regarding their age ... he was 20, she was 19. Likely this was done because at that time in Pennsylvania anyone under 21 needed permission of a parent or guardian to marry, and that would be too much of a hassle. As was common at the period, both Nick and Sophie were illiterate and so signed their marriage license with "their mark" – an X. That marriage license is shown on the following page.

Nick and Sophie had a total of six children, who are listed below.

Nick Dutko (1890-1969)
Sophie Popovich (1892-1956)
Michael (1912-1979)
Mary (1914-1990)
John (1916-1945)
Nicolas (Mickey) (1918-1982)
George (1921-1994)
Florence (Flo) (1926-1995)

The Dutko Family in 1921

(L-R) Mary, mother Sophie, Mickey, John, father Nick, and Mike.



Application for Marriage License

THIRD SERIES

No. 4819

1. Full name of man,
2. Full name of woman,
3. Relationship of the parties, either by blood or marriage,
4. Age of the man,
5. Age of the woman,
6. Residence of the man,
7. Residence of the woman,
8. Parents' name—man,
9. Parents' name—woman,
10. Guardian's name—man,
11. Guardian's name—woman,
12. Date of man's former marriage, if married,
13. Date of death of man's former wife, if dead,
14. Date of woman's former marriage, if married,
15. Date of death of woman's former husband, if dead,
16. Date of divorce of man,
17. Cause of divorce, if any,
18. Date of divorce of woman,
19. Cause of divorce, if any,
20. Color of parties,
21. Occupation of man,
22. Occupation of woman,
23. Written consent of parents or guardian of man,
24. Written consent of parents or guardian of woman,
25. We are of sufficient understanding to consent and contract willingly,

Mike Dutko
Sofia Popovich
none
21 years
21 years
Johnstown
Johnstown
Mike + Sofia Dutko
John + Kate Popovich
none
none
none
none
none
none
none
none
none
none
none
White
Labor
Domestic
none
none
yes

Cambria County, ss.

Personally appeared before me, an alderman
Mike Dutko

and Sofia Popovich in and for said County of Cambria,

who being duly qualified according to law did depose and say that the statements above set forth are correct and true to the best of their knowledge and belief.

(alt.) Sworn and subscribed before me this
1st day of Aug. A. D. 1912.
George Mattles

Mike Dutko
Sofia Popovich

My commission expires first Monday of May, 1913.

copy.

No. 4819

Marriage License

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
COUNTY OF CAMBRIA, } ss.

To any Minister of the Gospel, Justice of the Peace, or other officers or persons authorized by law to solemnize marriage:

You are hereby authorized to join together in the holy state of matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your church, society, or religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mike Dutko
and Sofia Popovich

of full age and never heretofore married.

of full age and never heretofore married.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Orphans' Court of said County of Cambria, at Ebensburg,

SEAL

this 3rd day of August Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred
and eleven

Arthur Griffith
Clerk of the Orphans' Court

No. 4819

Duplicate Certificate

Rev. Nicholas Szabados hereby certify that on the 10 day of August
one thousand nine hundred and eleven at Johnstown, Pa.

Nicholas Dutko and Sofia Popovich

were by me united in marriage, in accordance with license issued by the Clerk of the Orphans' Court of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, and numbered 4819

Filed Sept. 1, 1913

(church seal)

Rev. Nicholas Szabados
Minister of the Gospel, Justice of the Peace, or Alderman

Nick and Sophie worked hard and prospered. By 1930 both were U.S. citizens, and both could read and write. They owned their own home in Brownstown, a borough near Johnstown. The house was valued at \$4000, which was big money in those days! The 1930 census form lists the parents, their six children and a "lodger" – Nick's nephew John Keselyak-Demo as living in the household. Nick, his oldest son Mike, and John Demo were all employed as laborers in the steel mill. A copy of the 1930 census return that included the Dutko household is shown below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Mary and George in 1943



Mickey in 1943



Dutko's with Florence in 1949

Below and following page: Line 2 is Nick Dutko's entry on immigration manifest.

Form 500-21
Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States

S. S. *Shavouin* sailing from *Trieste*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL. Family Name. Given Name.	Age. Yrs. Mos.	Sex. M. F.	Single. Married or	*Calling or Occupation.	Able to— Read. Write.	Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	† Race or People.
1								
2	<i>Dutko</i>	<i>Nick's</i>	<i>17 yrs.</i>	<i>single</i>	<i>farmlaborer</i>		<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Slovak</i>
3	<i>Papp</i>	<i>Istvan</i>	<i>26 yrs.</i>	<i>single</i>	<i>farmlaborer</i>		<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Slovak</i>

ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

The United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered in *Trieste* on the *17th* of *October*, 1908

9	10	11	12
Race or People.	Last Permanent Residence.		First Destination.
	Country.	City or Town.	
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>farmlaborer</i>		<i>farmlaborer</i>
<i>Slovak</i>	<i>farmlaborer</i>		<i>farmlaborer</i>

THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF A

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such

Arriving at Port of *New York* on the *5th* *Nov*

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No on List.	Whether having a ticket to such final destination.	By whom was passage paid? <small>(Whether alien paid his own passage, whether paid by any other person, or by any corporation, society, municipality, or government.)</small>	Whether in possession of \$200, and if less, how much?	Whether ever before in the United States; and if so, when and where? If Yes— Year or period of years Where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Ever in prison or detention, or both, for any crime or offense, or for any violation of the laws for alien and treatment of the same, within five years prior to entry? If so, when and where?	Whether a Polygamist.	Whether an Anarchist.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	
1	<i>pub</i>									
2	<i>W. York self 823 no</i>				<i>sister of father, Anna</i>				<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
3					<i>Daughter 142 Johnston St</i>					
					<i>Daughter 142 Johnston St</i>					

ERAGE PASSENGERS.

List *13.*

OF ARRIVAL.

ving such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

November, 1908 *12th Nov. to 15th Nov.* **150**

23	24	SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY NATURALIZATION ACT APPROVED JUNE 29, 1908.							
Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled. Nature, length of time, and cause.	Height.		Complexion.	Color of—		Marks of Identification.	Place of Birth.	
		Feet.	Inches.		Hair.	Eyes.		Country.	City or Town.
<i>good, no</i>									
		<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>dark brown</i>				<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Baronpatak</i>
		<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>blue</i>			<i>"</i>	<i>Baronpatak</i>

And so, for now, ends the story of a remarkable family ... as are most families I've encountered. Nick Dutko and Sophie Popovich built a historic bridge between their impoverished Slovak homeland and the opportunities provided to their descendants here in America. The task of making and perhaps recording more recent history is left to those younger generations.