



From the Tatra Mountains to the Mahoning Valley



# A Yarab Family History

The Yarab Family comes from the country known today as the Slovak Republic or Slovakia, which is bordered by Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

Slovakia has only been a country since 1992.

Our ethnicity is Slavic, and we are of Slovak heritage.



From 1918 to 1992, except during a brief period during World War II, Slovakia was united with Czechia in a state called Czechoslovakia.



Prior to 1918, the territory that is now the Slovak Republic was part of Hungary for nearly a millennium. It was known as Upper Hungary.

The Hungarians, also known as the Magyars, had conquered the Slavic tribes who occupied that territory in the tenth century. One of those Slavic tribes would become the Slovak people. The Hungarians ruled that territory until the end of World War I.



The Yarab Family has its ancestral roots in what was Spiš County (Szepes in Hungarian) in the Kingdom of Hungary before 1918.

The area of Spiš is now an official tourism region in the the Slovak Republic.



The Spiš region is situated between the High Tatra Mountains and the Dunajec river in the north, the springs of the Váh River in the west, the Slovak Ore Mountains and Hnilec River in the South, and a line running from the town of Stará Ľubovňa to the town of Margecany in the east. In the late 19th century, as much as forty percent of Spiš was forest.



# Images of Spiš





# Origins of the Surname Yarab



Jaráb is “Slovak” related to Czech Jařeb, meaning the common European Crane (genus *Grus Grus*). [Documented as an ancestral surname in Upper Hungary in the mid- to late- 18<sup>th</sup> century]

Jarab [Documented in the USA in the late 19th Century]

**Early to Mid 19th century**

**Early 20th century**

**Late 18th century**

**Late 19th Century**

Jaráb, rarely Garáb [Documented in Upper Hungary in the 19th century].

Anglicized as Yarab, more rarely Yarb [Documented in the USA in the early 20th century]

The Jarábs in Hungary were, until 1848-1849, peasant serfs.

The lives of serfs were ones of impoverishment and crushing obligations to their local lords, the Church, and the state. They owed their local lords labor called *robot*, a portion of the fruits of their labor, and other services. They owed the Church a mandatory tithe. They alone paid the county and state taxes as nobles were exempt from taxes.

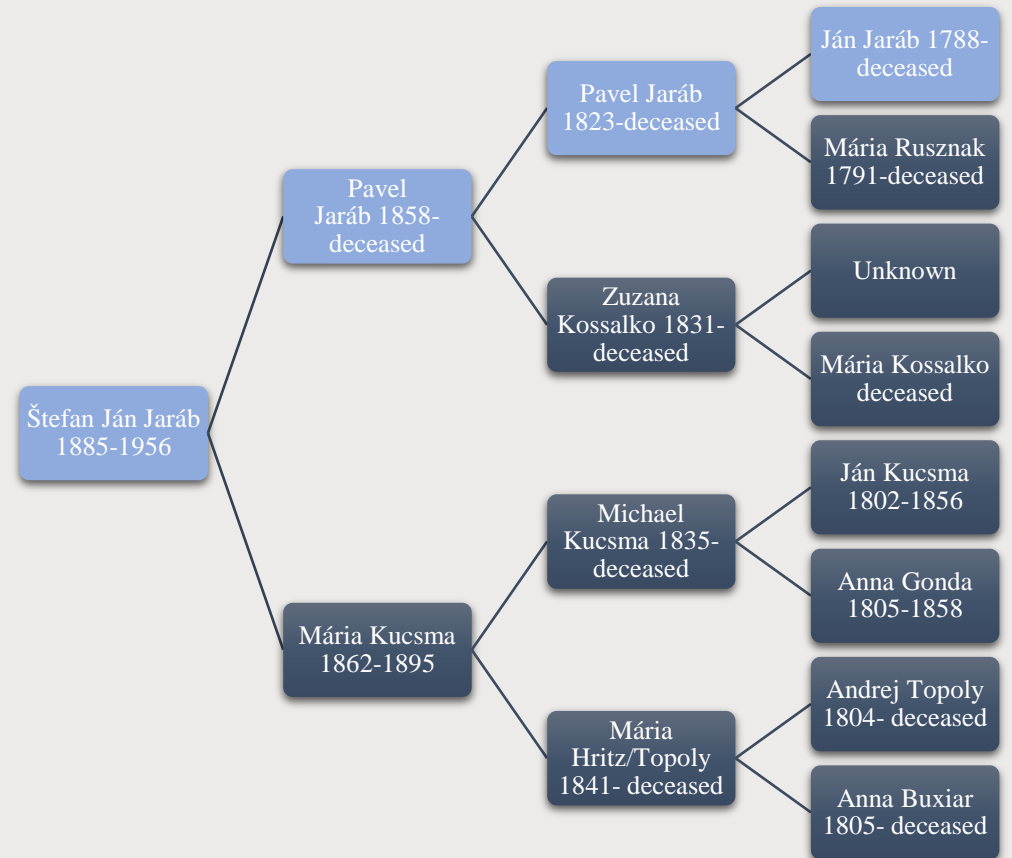


After the serfs were freed from the obligations of serfdom, they were still impoverished, had almost no political rights (i.e., they could not vote unless they owned considerable land), and they were subjected to oppression by the Hungarians who wanted them to fully become Hungarian (e.g., after 1000 years, no longer speak Slovak, have Slovak traditions, and have Slovak names).





# The Jarábs of Slovakia





Ján Jaráb  
(1788-?)  
Mária Rusznak  
(1790-?)

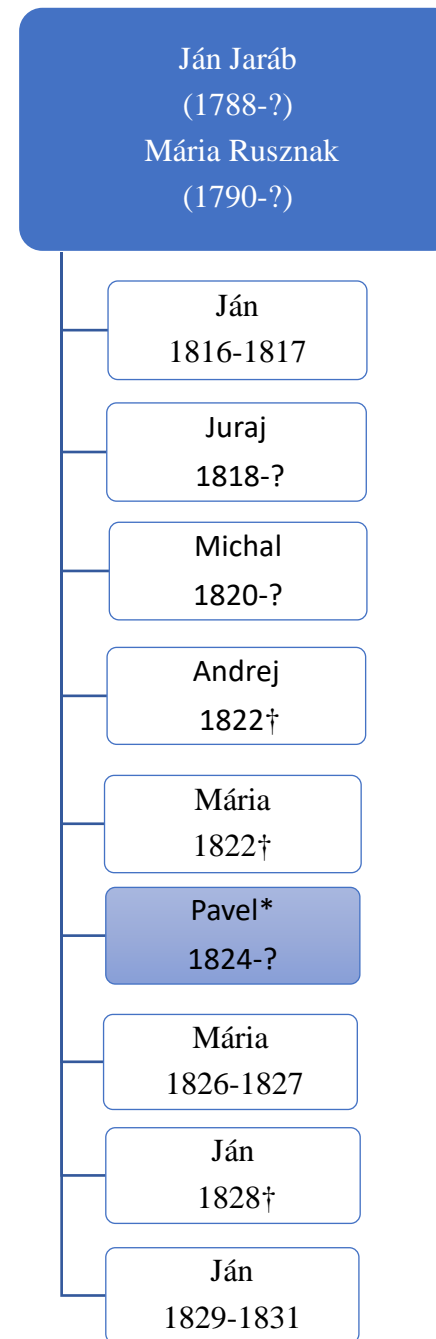
Pavel Jaráb  
(1823-?)  
Zuzana Kossalko  
(1831-?)

Pavel Jaráb  
(1858-?)  
Mária Kucsma  
(1862-1895)

Štefan Jaráb  
(1885-1956)  
Mária  
Farkasovsky  
(1887-1944)

Stephen J. Yarab  
Jr. (1907-1944)  
Martha A. Peters  
(1912-1996)

# Our Story Begins with the Ján Jaráb and Mária Rusznak Family





October 1813

**THE NAPOLEONIC WARS  
NEARBY**

The Battle of Nations was fought in Leipzig, Saxony. It was the largest conflict between European armies prior to World War One.

November 1813

**A MARRIAGE**

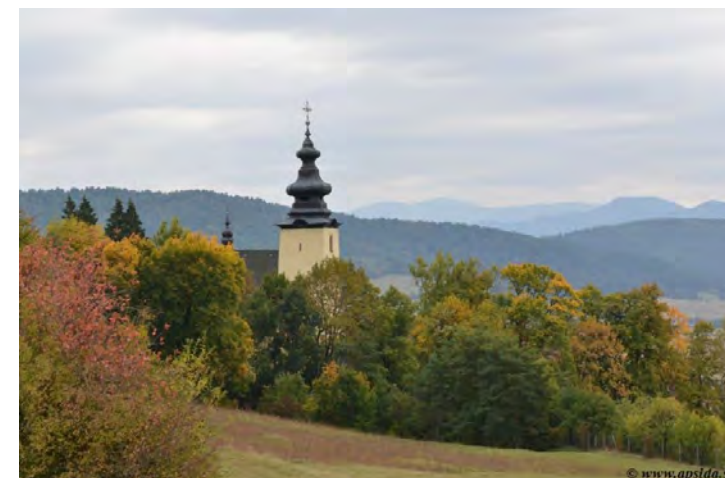
Ján Jaráb & Mária Rusznak married at All Saints Church in Mindszent, Hungary (only 500 miles away from Leipzig).



The Jarábs were married in Mindszent's Church of All Saints, which was built c.1250 in the early Gothic style. The village of Mindszent (since 1920 Bijacovce) was established at the end of the 12th century. It was mentioned in 1258, when, after the Tatar invasion, it was assigned to Germans for resettlement.

Its population in 2021 was 967.

The surnames Jaráb and Jarábová (the later the feminine form of Jaráb in Slovak) were among the 100 most common surnames in the village in 2005.







August 1816  
FIRST BORN SON

Mária gave birth to a son, Ján, who was baptized on August 6, 1816, at All Saints Church in Mindszent.

1816  
THE YEAR OF SORROW

Unfortunately, Ján was born in a year of unusually cold weather that resulted in worldwide famine. It is estimated that around 44,000 deaths occurred due to famine in Hungary alone. The unseasonably cold weather and lack of sunlight were attributed to volcanic activity and unusual sunspot activity.

March 1817  
DEATH OF FIRST BORN

Ján and Mária's first-born son, Ján, died on March 25, 1817. His death was likely related to the unusual weather associated with the Year of Sorrow.

April 1818

**A SECOND SON**

Mária gave birth to a son, Juraj, who was baptized on April 1, 1818, at All Saints Church.

September 1820

**A THIRD SON**

Mária gave birth to a son, Michal, who was baptized on September 26, 1820, at All Saints Church.

August 1822

**TWINS**

Mária, age 30, gave birth to Andrej and Mária, who were baptized at All Saints Church on August 5, 1822. Unfortunately, both twins died on August 12, 1822.

December 1823

**FIFTH SON\***

**Mária gave birth to a son, Pavel, in December 1823 or January 1824. Pavel was baptized on January 3, 1824.**

**Pavel is our direct forebear.**

July 1826

A SECOND DAUGHTER

Mária gave birth to a daughter, Mária, who was baptized on July 6, 1826. The child died on July 22, 1827.

June 1828

A SIXTH SON

Mária gave birth to a son, Ján, who was baptized on June 17, 1828, and died on July 22, 1828.

December 1829  
A SEVENTH SON

Mária gave birth to a son, Ján, who was baptized on December 4, 1829, at All Saints Church. He died on March 13, 1831. He likely died during the Cholera epidemic of 1830-1831.

1830-1831  
CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

A cholera epidemic swept through Hungary. Despite the efforts of authorities to mitigate its impact, over 536,000 were infected and 238,000 died.

1830-1831  
CHOLERA UPRISING

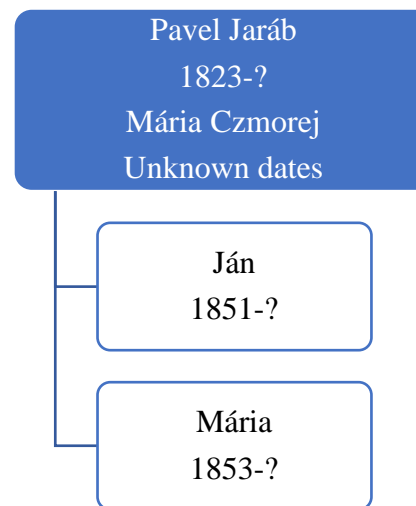
Peasants in Slovakia reacted negatively to the measures taken to address the epidemic and 40,000 peasants engaged in an uprising against the authorities after conspiracy theories spread that medicines were actually poison, etc.

Monument  
Commemorating the  
Cholera Uprising of  
1831. Many historians  
attribute the social and  
economic oppression  
of the peasants as one  
of the underlying  
causes of the uprising.  
Mindszent was a center  
of the uprising.

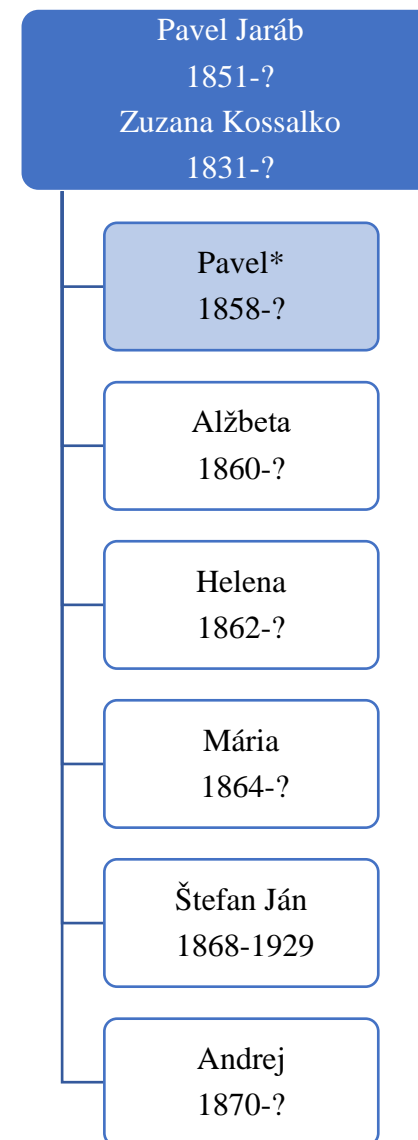


# Our Story Continues with the Pavel Jaráb and Zuzana Kossalko Family

## 1<sup>st</sup> Marriage



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage



1830s-1840s

### POTATOES

The adoption of potato cultivation somewhat mitigated the effects of famine and provided an alternative to wheat which declined in demand after the end of the Napoleonic wars. However, potato distillation into alcohol contributed to a rise in alcoholism among Slovak peasants.

NOVEMBER 1845

### FIRST MARRIAGE

Pavel married, at the age of 22 years, Mária Czmorej on November 17, 1845. Mária was born in the small village of Pongrácovce.

1848-1849

#### HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

The Hungarian Revolution was just that, a Hungarian revolution; it was not a revolution for the other nationalities in Hungary, such as the Slovaks, Croats, Romanians, and Serbs. The Hungarians were revolting against the Habsburgs and the Austrians, who had ruled them for centuries. During the course of the revolution, serfdom and church tithes were abolished, actions which the Habsburg Emperor-King endorsed after he reasserted control.

1851 & 1853

#### CHILDREN FROM FIRST MARRIAGE

Mária gave birth to a son, Ján, in 1851, and a daughter, Mária, in 1853. She apparently died shortly thereafter as we find in the records that Pavel remarried in 1857.



JULY 1857  
SECOND MARRIAGE

Pavel Jaráb and Zuzana Kossalko married on July 20, 1857, at All Saints Church in Mindszent. It was a second marriage for both. The parish register shows that Pavel was 34 years old & a resident of Pongrácovce, dwelling no. 31, & Zuzana was 27 years old and a resident of Mindszent, no. 38.

MAY 1858  
FIRST SON\*

Pavel and Zuzana's first child was Florian Pavel, who was born on May 11, 1858 and baptized on May 13, 1858, in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in the village of Markušovce.

He is our direct forebear.

FEBRUARY 1860  
FIRST DAUGHTER

Pavel and Zuzana's second child was Alžbeta, who was baptized on February 12, 1860, in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in the village of Markušovce.

The Church of St. Michael the Archangel, where Pavel and his sister were baptized, was built sometime after 1260 in the Romanesque-Gothic style in the village of Markušovce.

The village was founded in the 12th century before the Tatar invasions. The village was owned by the Máriassy family from the 13th century onwards and many members of the family are buried in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel.

Its population in 2021 was 4,624.



The parish register for the baptisms of Pavel and Alžbeta recorded the family residence as “*Domicula Silvani Familiae Com. Csáky.*” This seems to indicate that the family lived in the woods owned by Count Csáky rather than in the village of Markušovce or any other village.

The end of serfdom left many peasants landless and homeless. Perhaps this parish record is illustrative of such a situation for Pavel and Zuzana.



60.	11.	13.	Florianus, mar --	leg. --	Jarab. Paulus, Krosalko Juzanna, Rom. Cath. M.	Domicula Silvani Fa- miliae Com. Csáky.
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JánUARY 1862  
SECOND DAUGHTER

Zuzana gave birth to a daughter, Helena, on January 9, 1862, who was baptized on January 12, 1862, in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Markusovce. The church register recorded that the family resided in the village of Kotterbach.

MARCH 1864  
THIRD DAUGHTER

Zuzana gave birth to a daughter, Mária, on March 25, 1864, who was baptized at the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Spišský Hrhov. The church registered records that the family resided in the village of Domaňovce, No. 67.

1867  
AUSTRO-HUNGARY CREATED

In 1866, the Austrians lost the Austro-Prussian War. The Hungarians used the opportunity to negotiate greater independence from Austria, resulting in the Compromise of 1867, in which Hungary was essentially independent, sharing only a sovereign ruler with Austria.

MAY 1868  
SECOND SON

Zuzana gave birth to a son, Štefan Ján Jaráb, on May 30, 1868, who was baptized on June 1, 1868. He was baptized at the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Spišský Hrhov. The church register records that family lived in the village of Domaňovce, No. 67.

He immigrated to the United States in 1888, changed his name to Stephen John Yarab, and ultimately settled in Youngstown, Ohio.

He is not our direct forebear but our direct forebear's uncle.

1869

HUNGARIAN CENSUS

An official census records that Pavel and Zuzana resided in the village of Štefan Domaňovce, No., 67, with their children.

AUGUST 1870  
THIRD SON

Zuzana gave birth to a son, Andrej, on August 15, 1870, who was baptized on August 21, 1870, at the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Spišský Hrhov. The church register recorded the family resided in the village of Domaňovce, No. 67.

# 1869 Census Information: The Pavel and Zuzana Jaráb family lived in a one room house with a cellar. They had animal pens, a barn with stables, and a storage building. They also had one cow and one pig.

Obec: Mladá Boleslav  
 Krajina: Čechy  
 Město (ortiel, sedl, vidk): Boleslav  
 Státnice (okres, sedl, vidk): Boleslav  
 Kúřev: Boleslav  
 Obec: Boleslav

## Felvételi iv

### a népesség és háziállatok számlálására

az 1869. évi december 31-diki állapot szerint.

### Zápisný hárok

pre sčítá obyvateľstva a domácich zvierat podľa stavu 31-ho decembra 1869.

Háziasztos: Boleslav  
 Celo domova: Boleslav

1. lakás van  
 Bytany je 7

2. lakás létező hány  
 Bytany csakjegy v más  
 lakás 0

Csupán lakásra szolgáló?  
 Cs. len pro bytany stáží?  
 Cs. len pro obchod stáží a jaky?  
 bolt?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
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 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?  
 kávéház?

1. A háziállatok számlálása az 1869. évi december 31-én történt. A háziállatok számlálása a háziállatok tulajdonosainak részéről történik. A háziállatok számlálása a háziállatok tulajdonosainak részéről történik. A háziállatok számlálása a háziállatok tulajdonosainak részéről történik.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A lakók vezeték- és keresetnevéről, címéről és rangjáról	Nemük	Religiósa és hitvallása	Valtása	Családi állapota	Hivatása vagy foglalkozása	Pozíciója
1. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1822</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>ženat</u>	<u>musar</u>	
2. <u>Zuzana Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1821</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
3. <u>Michal Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1844</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
4. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1844</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
5. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1845</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
6. <u>Anna Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1855</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
7. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1857</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
8. <u>Elisabeth Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
9. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
10. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	
11. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1868</u>	<u>r. Kath</u>	<u>vdova</u>	<u>domácnice</u>	

Signed: Boleslav  
 Andrus Jaráb  
 Agent 35

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Foglalkozási viszonyai	Szolgálati viszonyai	Honosági viszonyai	Jelenléti viszonyai	Távolléti viszonyai	A háziállatok számlálása	Foglalkozási viszonyai
1. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
2. <u>Zuzana Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
3. <u>Michal Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
4. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
5. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
6. <u>Anna Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
7. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
8. <u>Elisabeth Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
9. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
10. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
11. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Signed: Boleslav  
 Jaroslav Jaráb

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Foglalkozási viszonyai	Szolgálati viszonyai	Honosági viszonyai	Jelenléti viszonyai	Távolléti viszonyai	A háziállatok számlálása	Foglalkozási viszonyai	Szolgálati viszonyai	Honosági viszonyai	Jelenléti viszonyai
1. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
2. <u>Zuzana Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
3. <u>Michal Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
4. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
5. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
6. <u>Anna Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
7. <u>Pavel Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
8. <u>Elisabeth Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
9. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
10. <u>Marie Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
11. <u>Jaroslav Jaráb</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Signed: Boleslav  
 Jaroslav Jaráb

Házilátok számbavétele.  
 Zápis domácích zvířat.

Our Story  
Continues with  
the Pavel Jaráb  
and Mária  
Kucsma Family

First Marriage

Pavel Jaráb  
1858-?  
Mária Kucsma  
1862-1895

Mária Zuzana  
(Halula)  
1883-1974

Štefan Ján\*  
1885-1956

Second Marriage

Pavel Jaráb  
1858-?  
Catharina Kucsma  
1877-?

?

?

JánUARY 1881

FIRST MARRIAGE

Pavel Jaráb married Mária Kucsma, on January 31, 1881, in Spišský Hrhov in the church of St. Simon and St. Jude.

APRIL 1883

DAUGHTER'S BIRTH

Mária Kucsma gave birth to a daughter, Mária Zuzana, on April 28, 1883, who was baptized on April 29, 1883, in Spišský Hrhov. The church register recorded that the family lived in Domaňovce, No. 79.

AUGUST 1885

SON'S BIRTH\*

Mária Kucsma gave birth to a son, Štefan Ján, on August 20, 1885, who was baptized on August 23, 1885, in Spišský Hrhov. The parish register recorded the family residence as Domaňovce, No. 79. He is our direct forebear.

MARCH 1895

DEATH OF MÁRIA KUCSMA

Mária Kucsma died of encephalitis on March 7, 1895, in Domaňovce, at the age of 33.

MAY 1895

SECOND MARRIAGE

Pavel remarried two months after Mária died. He married on May 13, 1895, at age 37, to his deceased wife's 17-year-old half-sister, Catharina Kucsma. Family history records that Pavel and Catharina had two children.



Štefan Ján Jaráb, our direct forebear, was baptized in the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Spišský Hrhov, which was originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



Štefan Ján Jaráb, our direct forebear and his family, lived in the village of Domanyóc (Domaňovce, Slovakia). It was first mentioned in historical records in the year 1258. By the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when our forebears resided in the village, most of the inhabitants made their living from farming, although there were also craftsmen such as masons, weavers, boot makers, and an innkeeper. Štefan's father, according to his grandson Stephen J. Yarab Jr., was reportedly a travelling tinkerer (handyman and peddler) or “snake oil salesman” (known as a Drotár in Slovak).

In 2021, the village's population was 907.

The surnames Jaráb and Jarábová were listed in the 2005 village phonebook.



Family history records that Pavel traveled to the United States but returned to Hungary after a brief period. Perhaps he visited his brother Štefan who had migrated to the United States in 1888. Documentation is lacking to confirm that Pavel traveled to the United States; however, it was not uncommon for a Slovak man from Hungary to travel to the United States, earn more money than he could ever hope to earn in Hungary working in the coal mines, steel mills, or oil refineries, only to return to Hungary after a short time a relatively well-off man by the standards of a peasant. After such a traveler returned, he would share stories of how a man not afraid of work could succeed in the United States in a way he could never succeed in Hungary while being free from the petty oppressions that were common in Hungary.

This opportunity for prosperity and freedom is why the “... trickle of peasants who had experienced life in America in the 1870’s turned into a deluge after they returned home with their savings in the 1880’s. Only 5,000 Slovaks had made the trip in the years 1870-1880. By 1920, however, over 600,000 (one quarter of the Slovak nation) lived and worked in the new land.”

Family tradition records that Pavel died soon after returning to Hungary. However, he must have enthusiastically shared with his children that their future was in the United States before he died and taken steps to facilitate their future, as both his daughter Mária and son Štefan were able to secure their passage to the United States separately in 1901.

As the year 1901 was notorious for exorbitant emigration costs, the family made great financial sacrifice to finance the migration of both Mária and Štefan. In today's terms, travel expenses would have amounted to a staggering \$1,846 to \$2,462 each.



Records show that Mária arrived in the United States on March 16, 1901. Her brother Štefan (our direct forebear) would follow several months later.

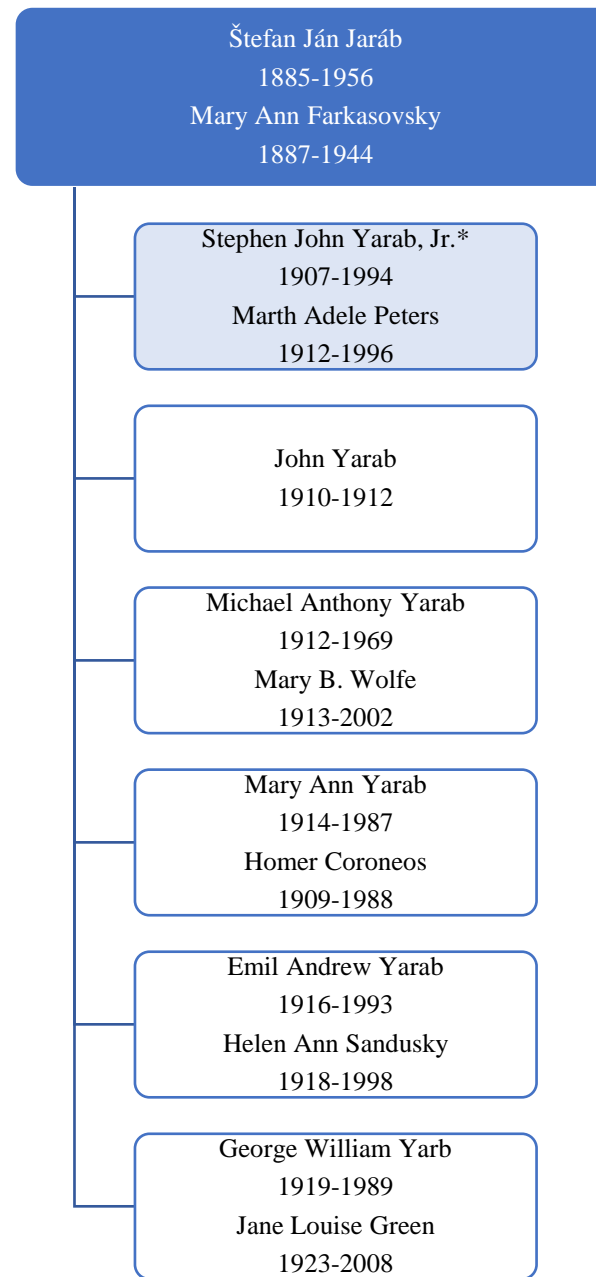
18-year-old Mária, married 23-year-old Stephen John Halula, a Slovak immigrant, on June 7, 1901, in Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Coal mining was the driving economic force of Westmoreland County at the time, and many thousands of miners in Westmoreland County were Slovak, including John Halula.



# The Štefan Ján Jaráb and Mary Ann Farkasovsky Family Story

The chart shows  
who Štefan and  
Mary's children  
married.




## Štefan's Journey to the United States to Join His Sister

16-year-old Štefan secured transportation to the United States by purchasing a third class, or steerage, ticket aboard the *SS Barbarossa*, a steamer owned by the Norddeutscher Lloyd company. Usually, the ticket package included the railway ticket from Hungary to the port city of Bremen as well as any necessary accommodations in Bremen.


Štefan would travel to the United States without a Hungarian passport or official permission to emigrate from Hungary given that he had not begun or completed his mandatory three-year military service.

Štefan would travel as an unaccompanied minor, engaging in chain migration, primarily for economic and political reasons. He was fleeing both poverty and the political oppression of Magyarization – the official suppression by the Hungarian state of the political rights, cultures and languages of non-ethnic Hungarians.


The railway system in Hungary was very dense in 1901 – railway lines and stations were fairly near every village; thus, Štefan did not have to walk very far to begin his journey to the United States.



Once on the train, Štefan's first stop would have been either the village of Mysłówice or Racibórz near the German-Austro-Hungarian-Russian border, where he would have been examined by agents of the steamship company to ensure that he was medically fit for entry into the United States.



His next stop would have been the town of Ruhleben, near Berlin, Germany, where he would have been medically examined again, to ensure that he was fit for entry into Germany and the United States.



The final stop of his train travel was the port of Bremen. In Bremen, before being permitted to board the SS Barbarossa, the US Consulate required all passengers to undergo another medical examination under its supervision and required that they be vaccinated.



The *SS Barbarossa* left Bremen on December 7, 1901, for what would be a nearly two-week ocean voyage.

Štefan was a passenger in steerage. Štefan's experience as a steerage passenger must have been one of the more unpleasant experiences of his life.

As late as 1911, in a report to President William H. Taft, the United States Immigration Commission said: "The open deck space reserved for steerage passengers is usually very limited, and situated in the worst part of the ship, subject to the most violent motion, to the dirt from the stacks and the odors from the hold and galleys ... the only provisions for eating are frequently shelves or benches along the sides or in the passages of sleeping compartments. Dining rooms are rare and, if found, are often shared with berths installed along the walls. Toilets and washrooms are completely inadequate; saltwater only is available. The ventilation is almost always inadequate, and the air soon becomes foul. The unattended vomit of the seasick, the odors of not too clean bodies, the reek of food and the awful stench of the nearby toilet rooms make the atmosphere of the steerage such that it is a marvel that human flesh can endure it.... Most immigrants lie in their berths for most of the voyage, in a stupor caused by the foul air. The food often repels them.... It is almost impossible to keep personally clean. All of these conditions are naturally aggravated by the crowding."





The SS Barbarossa arrived at Ellis Island in New York Harbor after completing a 13-day transatlantic voyage on Friday, December 20, 1901. The cold chill on that day was a record breaking low of 18 to 26 degrees Fahrenheit.

The ship's manifest records that Štefan had the required minimum of at least \$30 in his possession upon arrival (inflation adjusted worth over \$1073 today), and that his ultimate destination was Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, where he was travelling to join his sister, Mária.



At Ellis Island, Štefan would have been given another medical examination which, if he had failed, would have seen him returned to Europe on the steamer on which he had arrived.

After he passed his medical exam, Štefan moved on to the final test from the 'primary line' inspector, who sought to verify the information about Štefan contained on the manifest. An interpreter assisted the process, which lasted no longer than two minutes.

About 20 percent of those arriving at Ellis Island were detained for medical treatment or a legal hearing; the rest were free to go after only a few hours. Only two percent of the immigrants seeking refuge in America would fail to be admitted.



Once Štefan passed his final test, he had a landing card pinned onto his clothes. He then moved on to the Money Exchange, where cashiers exchanged his Hungarian money into American dollars, based on the day's official rates.



Štefan's next stop was the railroad ticket office, if he did not already have a prepaid ticket to Mt. Pleasant. Once he had his ticket, he would have been ferried on a barge to the train terminals in Jersey City or Hoboken to the train station.





- Once Štefan arrived in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, he likely lived with his brother-in-law and sister for a short period before moving into a boarding house.
- Štefan found employment as a coal miner with the W. J. Rainey Company. The Rainey company was one of about 40 coal companies that operated mines and coke ovens in Westmoreland County. It was one of the smaller coal companies in Westmoreland County, employing 300-400 men per year.
- Miners worked 10 to 12 hours a day. In 1905, companies paid miners 69 cents for a wagon of coal that contained one-and-one-half tons. By 1910, they reduced payment for the same wagon of coal to 58 cents. Miners could work two or three wagons a day.

On June 28, 1906,  
Štefan married Mary  
Ann Farkasovsky, at  
Visitation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
parish in Mount  
Pleasant,  
Pennsylvania

Mary was born on  
August 30, 1886, in  
Leisenring,  
Pennsylvania, the  
daughter of Stephen  
Farkasovsky and  
Mária Kopperdák.  
Her parents had  
immigrated to the  
United States in  
April 1885 from  
Hungary with her  
older brother, John.

187

MARRIAGE LICENSE DOCKET.

No. 22145 ✓

Stephen Yarab born in Austria Hungary  
on the 15 day of August A. D. 1885, residing at Mt Pleasant  
Mined occupation NOT related by blood or marriage  
to the person whom he desires to marry  
has Never been married before

Mary Farcshowsky born in Fayette Co Pa on the  
30 day of Aug A. D. 1886, residing at Mt Pleasant  
she has never been married before

Marriage License issued July 21 1906  
Consent of Michael Kucma, residing at Mt Pleasant Pa  
Consent of \_\_\_\_\_, residing at \_\_\_\_\_  
Consent Filed June 21 1906. Married 28 June 1906  
By M. C. Blatinaky Duplicate Certificate returned 12 July 1906



- Mary gave birth to her first son, Stephen, on March 26, 1907 (our direct forebear).
- Mary gave birth to her second son, John, on March 5, 1910.
- The 1910 census shows that the family was renting a house with another family on Morewood Street in Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.
- Photograph: Štefan, Mary, Stephen Jr., and John in Mary's lap.

# COAL MINERS STRIKE NOW DECLARED OFF

**Conclusion of One of Most Bitterly Fought Battles in History of Labor.**

**Though not a Clean Cut Victory the Contest Will Enure to Miners' Benefit.**

GREENSBURG, Pa., July 20.—The strike of the coal miners in the Irwin-Greensburg district, in progress for the past sixteen months, has been officially declared off. This is the conclusion of one of the most bitterly fought industrial battles in the history of labor. The men have made great sacrifices and shown extreme loyalty to a principle. It is unfortunate that a clean cut victory could not have come to the miners, but, without doubt, the conditions in the Irwin fields will be materially bettered as a result of the contest.

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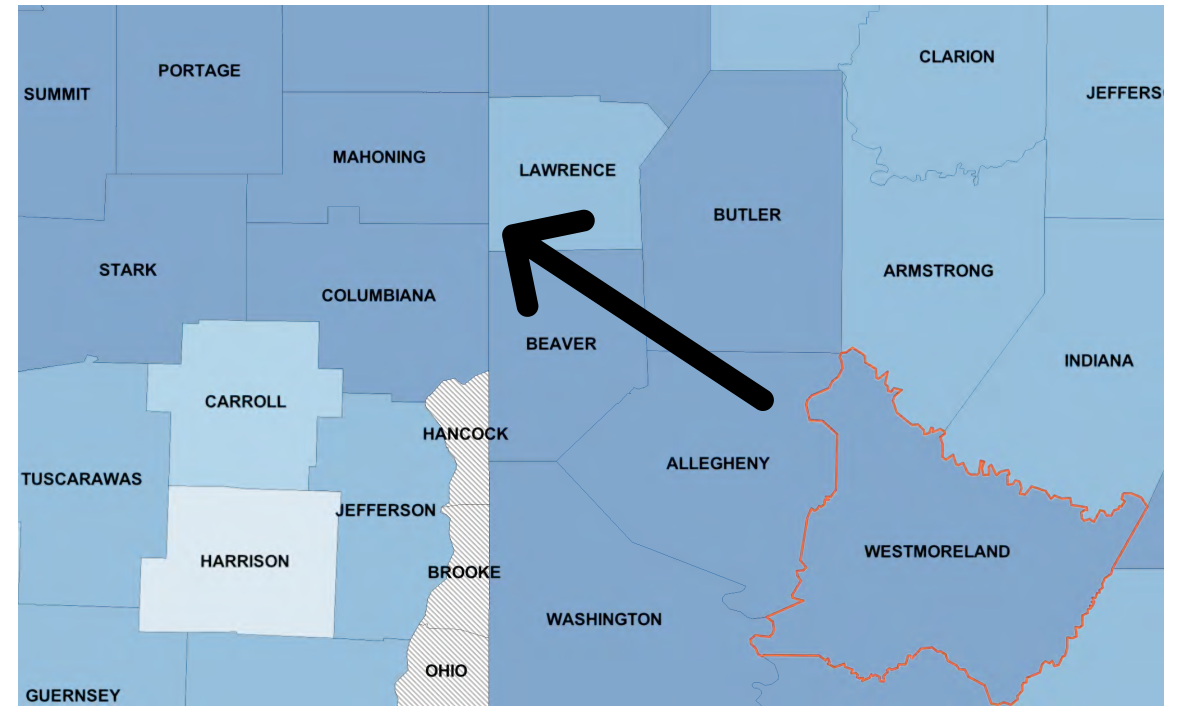
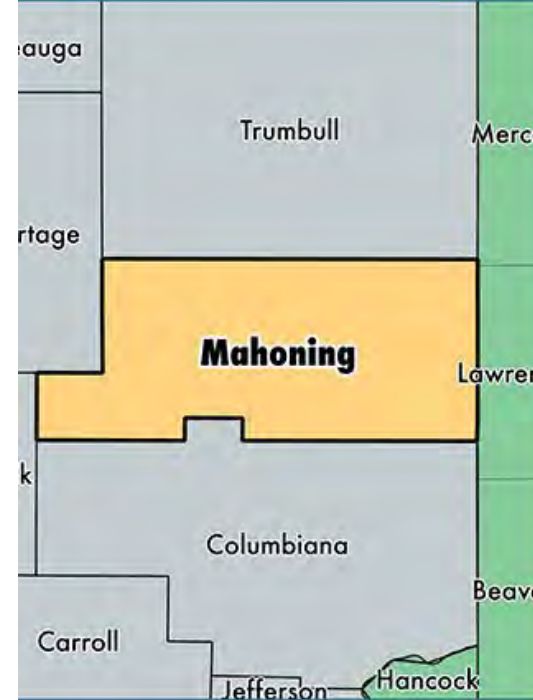
Weeks after the birth of John on March 5, 1910, the family was witness to one of the largest and longest strikes in Pennsylvania history, and one of the most significant episodes of labor unrest in the early 20th century. It was only the first of several significant episodes of labor unrest that Štefan and Mary would witness first-hand.

The “Westmoreland County Coal Strike,” more commonly known as the “Slovak Strike of 1910-1911,” began on March 9, 1910, and ended July 1, 1911. It involved 16,500 coal miners, mostly of Slovak origin, working for approximately 20 coal companies. Nineteen coal companies, with approximately 12,000 employees, were not involved in the strike. The employees of the W.J. Rainey Company, for which Štefan worked, did not participate in the strike.



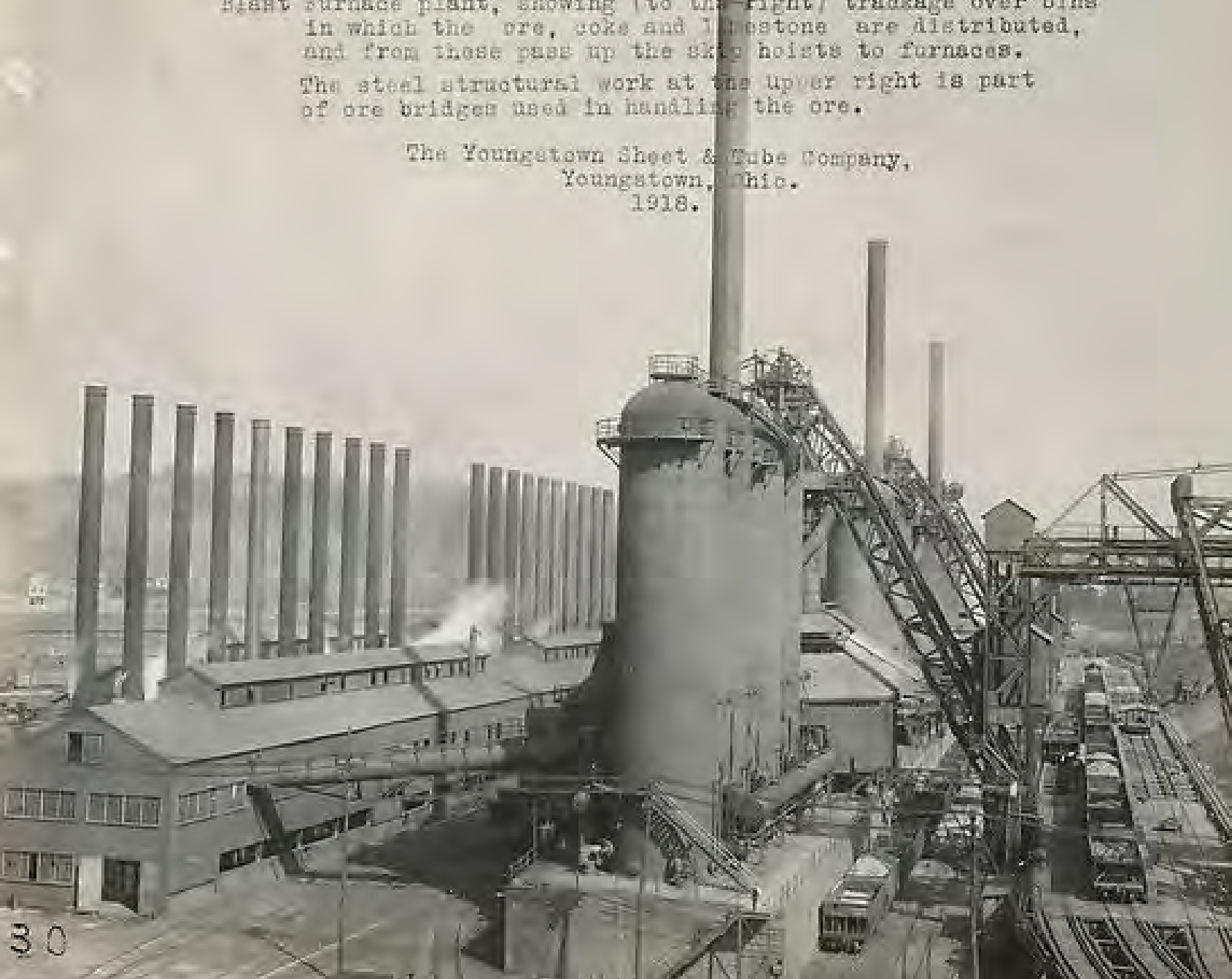
## From the Coal Mines to the Steel Mills

- The labor unrest, and the ferocity of the violence inflicted on the strikers by the companies and the authorities likely made a deep impression on Štefan and Mary, so much so that shortly after Mary gave birth to her third son, Michael, on May 8, 1912, the family moved to Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio, for a better life and job in what they hoped was a more secure labor environment.
- Youngstown was a natural choice. First, Štefan's uncle – his father's brother Štefan (now Stephen John Yarab), lived in the Youngstown area. Second, his uncle promised him that he would assist him in obtaining a good job at Youngstown Sheet & Tube, where he was a foreman. A job in a steel mill, though dirty and hard, was likely viewed as less grueling and dangerous than a job in a coal mine.



Right furnace plant, showing (to the right) trackage over bins in which the ore, coke and limestone are distributed, and from these pass up the skip hoists to furnaces. The steel structural work at the upper right is part of ore bridges used in handling the ore.

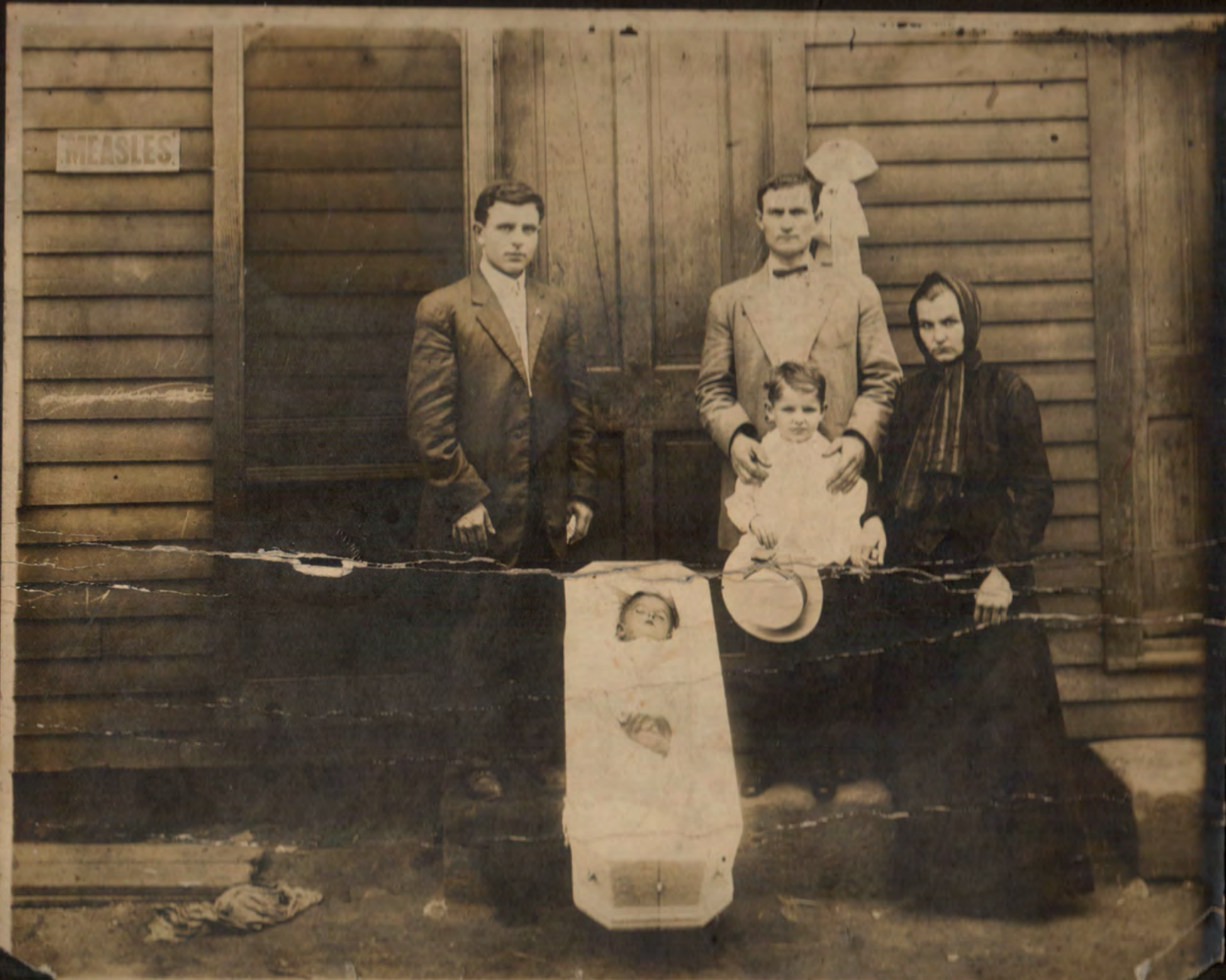
The Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company,  
Youngstown, Ohio.  
1918.

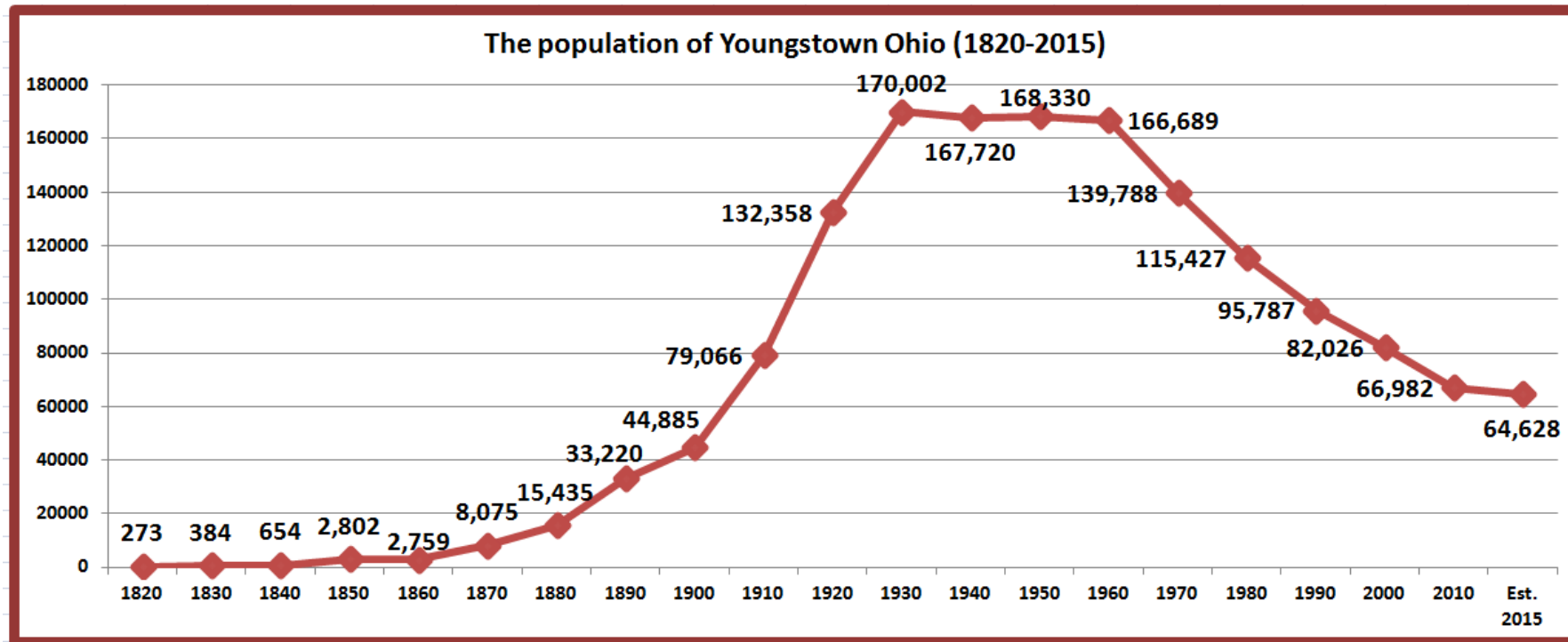


When Štefan arrived in Youngstown, he obtained employment at Youngstown Sheet & Tube. At the time, it was the largest employer in the Mahoning Valley, indeed, the largest employer in the state of Ohio.

# Mourning in the Valley

- Sadly, although Štefan was blessed with a new job and proximity to extended family when he moved to the Valley, his son John died of measles shortly after the family arrived. John died on August 16, 1912.
- Photograph: Štefan (standing left), Mary, Stephen Jr. (our direct forebear), and godfather William Barza (standing right).

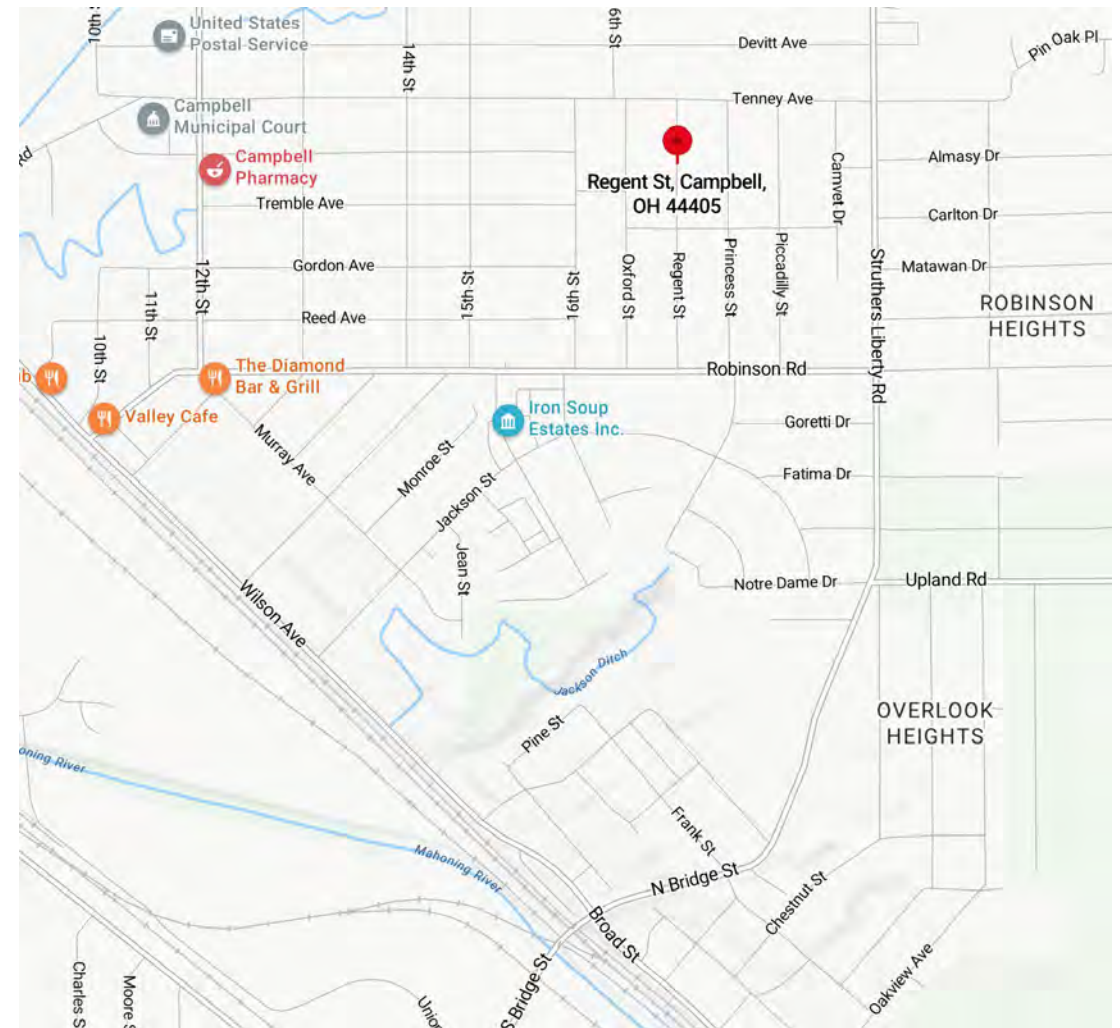




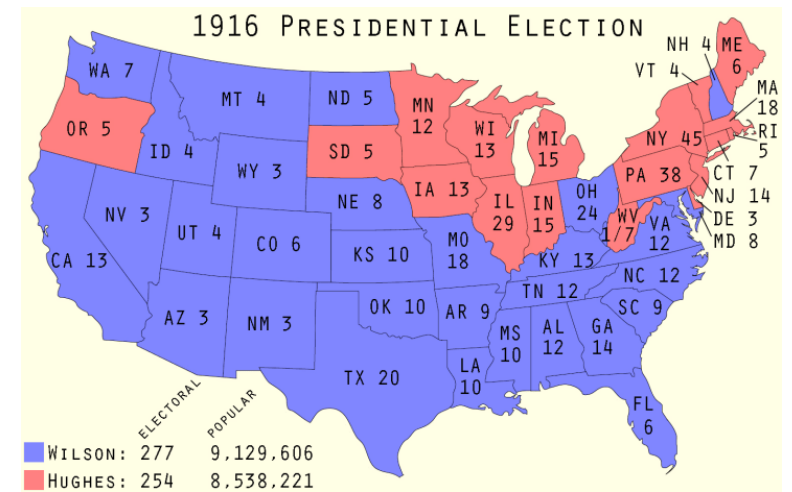
Štefan was but one of the innumerable immigrants that swelled the population of the Mahoning Valley in the early twentieth century. The rapidity of the growth between 1900 and 1920, a brief twenty years, was phenomenal in that the population of Youngstown tripled from 44,000 to 132,000.

The arrival of immigrants such as Štefan, mostly from southern and central Europe, also dramatically altered the composition of the population of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. Prior to 1900, the population of the Mahoning Valley largely had been of Welsh and German heritage; however, by 1920, two-thirds of the population were foreign-born individuals or the children of foreign-born individuals. This explosive immigration caused tensions far more caustic than those seen today.

- Štefan and Mary (our direct forebears) moved to East Youngstown (now known as Campbell, Ohio) and lived on Regent Street. Family history records that he built the home on Regent Street.
- Štefan and Mary's family continued to grow; Mary gave birth to a daughter, Mary, on October 21, 1914, and a son, Emil, on July 30, 1916.



- The Geer Family History records that Štefan obtained his citizenship in 1916. It relates the following: “When Stephen earned his citizenships papers in 1916, two errors were made in his name. When asked to spell his name, he spelled J-A-R-A-B. When they could not understand the last letter, he spelled and emphasized B-B. The clerk at the naturalization office used the English Y instead of the [Slovak] J and put two B’s on his name – Yarabb. He disputed this spelling but was told to ‘shut up, you’re an American now.’ Stephen felt hurt and very rudely treated by this incident. Thereafter he used the spelling Yarab. Because his citizenship papers were used as identification when he registered to vote, he had to use the two Bs when he voted. This was a constant irritant to him and his wife. The voted regularly as Democrats.”



## 1915-1916 STEEL STRIKE

In 1915, the Mahoning Valley faced housing shortages because of the growing population. Workers for Youngstown Sheet & Tube found themselves living in crowded conditions. Their labor conditions were arduous as they worked twelve-hour shifts six days a week. Additionally, despite a thriving economy, wages had been reduced nine percent during the previous year, leaving unskilled workers earning 19.5 cents per hour.

Against this backdrop, a strike broke out on December 27, 1915, at Youngstown Sheet & Tube, primarily over wages. The workers demanded a wage increase to 25 cents per hour, time and a half for overtime, and double overtime pay for Sundays.

Photograph: Workers queuing for their last paycheck before the strike begins against Youngstown Sheet & Tube.



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Underwood Archives



On January 7, 1916, the strike took a dark and tragic turn. A gathering of strikers and their wives congregated near the company's plant on Wilson Avenue, aiming to block the entry of "scabs." Some reports suggest that rocks were hurled at the company's guards, while others claim a shot was fired from the crowd. In response, the guards opened fire on the gathered crowd. The volleys of bullets left three people dead and at least 27 injured.

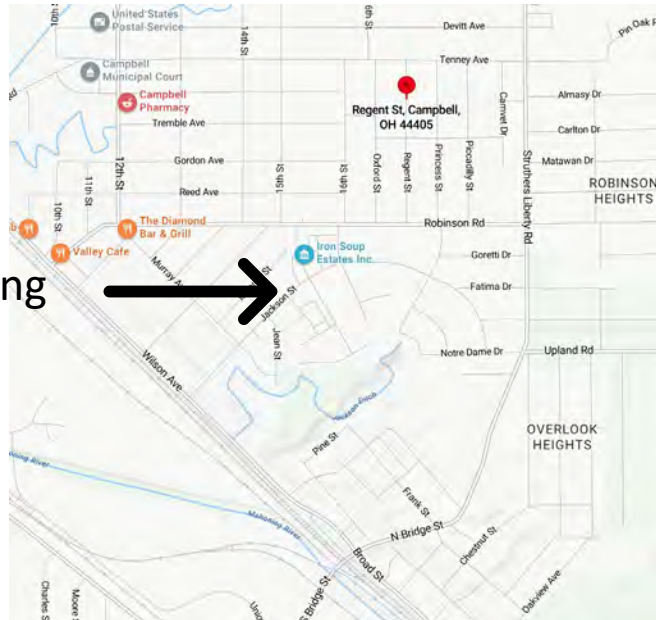
Fueled by a sense of injustice, the enraged workers stormed into the company headquarters, setting ablaze the records and seeking out so-called "blacklists" of union organizers targeted for violence. Their fury turned towards local businesses as well, resulting in the looting and destruction of nearly 100 blocks and residences in East Youngstown (Campbell). The losses amounted to a staggering one million dollars.

Two thousand National Guard troops were called in to restore order. A grand jury returned indictments against the rioters and the heads of major steel companies involved in the strike—Youngstown Sheet & Tube, U.S. Steel, Brier Hill, and Republic Steel.



# After the strike, Youngstown Sheet & Tube Builds Housing for workers

YS&T Housing



In response to the January 1916 steel worker strike and riot that destroyed much of East Youngstown (now Campbell), Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company built a housing subdivision for its workers. In May 1918, the company established a subsidiary, the Buckeye Land Company, to build houses and apartments on a 40-acre hillside site within walking distance of the company's Campbell Works.

The new housing, though side-by-side, was segregated into sections for American-born workers, immigrants such as Štefan, and blacks (most of whom were hired during the strike as "scabs"). The architects designed the housing so American-born workers and immigrants had porches facing the street while blacks had porches facing their back gardens.

The new housing was built very near the Regent Street home of Štefan and Mary, which Štefan reportedly built himself. Red dot on the map is Regent Street.

1917

# World War I

United States Declares War on Germany on April 6, 1917.

After war is declared, a collective made of workers, employers, and labor unions known as the War Labor Board negotiated an agreement in 1917 that improved working conditions, with shifts reduced to eight-hour days, in exchange for a strike moratorium.



Men Register for the Draft in one of three required registrations between 1917 and 1918

Štefan was required to register for the draft at the age of 33 years old on or after September 12, 1918, during the third registration of the war when men as old as 45 were required to register.

On the draft card, his name was recorded as Steven John Yarab (though he signed it “Stev Jan Yarab”), his height was listed as 5 feet 5 inches, his eye color as grey, and his hair color as dark.

His occupation was recorded as pipe inspector. His address was Regent Street, East Youngstown.

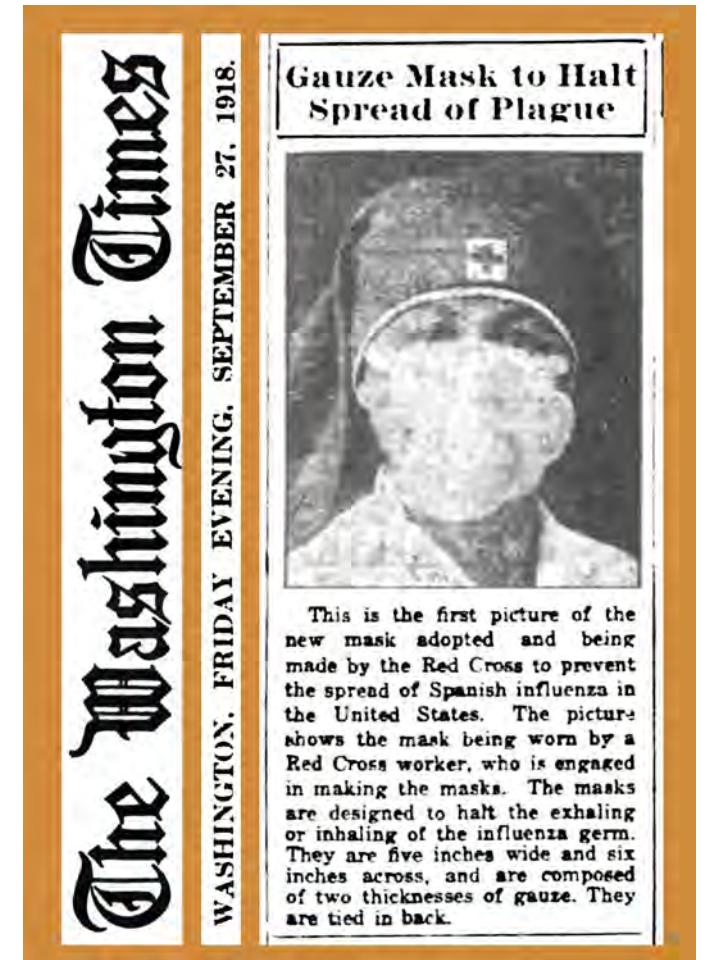
8350 REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER			ORDER NUMBER	2073
1	Steven John Yarab			
2	PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Regent St. E. Youngstown, Ohio			
Age in Years	Date of Birth			
33	Aug 20th	1885		
RACE				
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5	6	7	8 Yes	9
U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 No	11 No	12 No	13 No	14
15 List a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Eastern Hungary				
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME		
16 Pipe Inspector		17 No S. T. Co.		
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Regent St. E. Youngstown, Ohio				
NEAREST RELATIVE	Name	19 Mary J Yarab		
	Address	20 Regent St. E. Youngstown, Ohio		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE				
P. M. G. O.		Stev Jan Yarab		
Form No. 1 (Rec)		01-571 (Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)		

# 1918 GREAT INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

1918 witnessed a global pandemic of influenza which infected an estimated 500 million people, with an estimated 20 to 50 million deaths. Approximately 675,000 died in the United States, mostly healthy individuals between 20 and 40 years of age.

The pandemic peaked in the Mahoning Valley in October 1918. The Youngstown Vindicator reported the number of infected and the number who died daily. On October 30, there were 524 new flu cases and 29 deaths reported in Youngstown for October 29.



As World War I ends, the steel companies reverted to longer work-days and weeks and lower pay.

World War I ended on November 11, 1918.

The end of the war also ended the labor agreement, and thus the labor peace, negotiated by the War Labor Board.

The steel companies quickly reverted to the same working conditions that prevailed before the war: 12 or more hour working days, seven-day work weeks, and lower pay.





# The Great Strike of 1919

- Two conditions distinguished the 1919 Steel Strike in the Mahoning Valley; the effectiveness of the walkout and lack of violence.
- On Monday, September 22, 1919, production in the Mahoning Valley steel industry ceased. The level of local participation in the national strike was astonishing. Forty-four thousand men were idle by the second day of the strike.
- “For the first time in decades, the sky was a brilliant blue over Youngstown, due to the lack of industrial smoke. ... Local residents also noticed changes in the Mahoning River. In contrast to the accustomed ‘red-yellow bilious color,’ it ran blue and cold for the first time since 1898.”

## BIG STEEL STRIKE STARTS

Thousands of Guards at Plants Being Armed


- By September of 1919, more than 350,000 steelworkers nationwide, comprised of at least 30 different ethnic and racial backgrounds, came together to strike against the steel giants.
- The issue of immigrant labor was an important component of the debate over the strike. Nativist sentiment in Ohio meant that there was very little support for striking workers. Reports implied that striking workers were lazy opportunists. Even worse in the eyes of the public at that time, papers painted them as socialists supported by backers in a communist Russia.
- The steel mills began replacing white workers with black workers. This gave way to race riots and ultimately led to a military-backed martial law overseen by state troopers in some states.

# Strikers portrayed as un-American and ends without success

- Youngstown Sheet & Tube's owner emphasized throughout the strike that "... practically every single American reported for work and is working, while practically every foreigner failed to report to work."
- The Iron Trade Review editorialized on September 25, 1919: "There is nothing in this strike to mark it as American. In fact, it is essentially un-American in its organization, its designs and its methods ... the steel industry, in vigorously combating this menace of the clamorous and vicious minority, is upholding the banner of true Americanism."
- The strike ended on January 8, 1920, after the companies successfully painted the strike as anti-American.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1919 THE PITTSBURGH CHRONICLE TELEGRAPH 11

# The Strike Has Failed



**GO BACK TO WORK**  
**ВОЗВРАЩАЙТЕСЬ КЪ РАБОТѢ**  
**RITORNATE AL LAVORO**  
**WRACAJCIE DO PRACY**  
**GRIZ KITE PRIE DARBO**  
**IDITE NATRAG NA POSAO!**  
**CHODTE NAZAD DO ROBOTY**  
**MENJENEK VISSZA A MUNKABA**

The end of the steel strike is in sight. Failure was written across it before it was a day old. American workers who understood the radical element that is working to separate under the cloak of organized labor are now back. Few of them ever left their work—only a few foreigners—mostly aliens, who allowed themselves to be swayed by the un-American teachings of radical strike agitators. Each day more and more of these are seeing the light and returning to work. Some heads in labor's own ranks have saved American liberty in this great struggle and have again decisively demonstrated that nothing short of 100% Americanism can hope to win out in this country. The strike has failed. GO BACK TO WORK.

**Uvažajte na vzwanie Ameriky!**  
 (Polski)  
 Strach i wrosczenie do swego dzialal. Na...  
 (Czechoslovakian)  
 Uvažte zlas Ameriky!  
 (Slovakian)  
 Ascoltate il consiglio dell'America.  
 (Lithuanian)  
 Uvozkite ant žaukinn Amerikos.  
 (Hungarian)  
 Őrite has Ameriky.  
 (Danish)  
 Hølgssion Amerika gystatara.

**Go Back To Work**



# Green Acres

1919 saw Štefan and Mary move the family to a 35-acre farm in New Middletown, Ohio. The family bought a house on Felger Road near East Calla Road, minutes away from the Pennsylvania line, and just under three miles away from Bessemer, Pennsylvania.

Perhaps Štefan moved his family to the country to live in a healthier environment, to escape unending labor strife, and to avoid the increasing tensions between native born Americans and immigrants such as himself. Family history also records that he was encouraged to buy a farm by his son, Stephen, Jr.

The farmhouse was a four-bedroom, two-story house with gas lights powered by the gas well on the farm, heated by a coal furnace. Both coal and wood were used for cooking. A water pump brought water into the kitchen and the bathroom sink and tub. Water drained into a field from the house.

An outhouse rounded out the amenities of country living.



# Bessemer Quarry Work

Štefan left his job in the steel mills with intention of making a living on the farm. He bought all the essentials: a plow, team of horses, four cows, a buggy, and a wagon. However, the farm's income was insufficient to support the family.

Accordingly, Štefan went to work at the nearby limestone quarries in Bessemer, Pennsylvania, where he laid track for the dinkeys that carried limestone within the quarries.

Mary tended the fruit trees and vegetable garden and milked the cows. It was Stephen Jr.'s job, at age 15, to hitch the horse to the wagon and go with his mother to Lowellville, Ohio once a week to peddle the fruits, vegetables and milk from the farm. It was also his job to get his father to and from the quarries via horse and buggy.



# Modern Transportation & A Return to the Steel Mills

Around 1923, Štefan bought a used 1917 Ford.

Around 1924, Štefan and his son, Stephen Jr., desiring steady employment, obtained work at the steel mills in Youngstown, Ohio. The modern transportation made commuting to work from New Middletown much easier.



# The Mahoning Valley and the Klu Klux Klan in the 1920s

- By the early 1920s, the changing demographics of the Mahoning Valley caused a political, social, and religious backlash against the migrant population. The earlier Americans, mostly of English, Welsh, and German heritage and Protestant faith, viewed the newcomers, who were mostly Catholic and from Eastern or Southern Europe, as being racially inferior, morally deficient, and antithetical to American values.
- The newly revived KKK saw an opportunity for recruitment in the Valley. The KKK proposed teaching Protestant religion in public schools, banning the hiring of Catholic school teachers, and banning Catholic schools. They also blamed all illegal gambling, illegal booze, and prostitution on Catholic immigrants.
- The KKK, with the support of many local Protestant pastors, emerged with more members per capita in the Valley than almost anywhere else in the early '20s.
- In 1923, KKK supported candidates won election to most city-wide offices in Youngstown, including mayor. The newly elected officials immediately passed laws discriminating against immigrants regarding ownership of guns and business licenses.
- In 1924, violent clashes and riots between KKK members and immigrants near Niles, Ohio required the Governor to declare martial law and to deploy troops. After a series of similar disturbances, the popularity of the KKK gradually diminished in the Valley.

# The Mutability of Race

- Immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe like the Jarábs were not viewed as good Americans or even wholly “white” by many longstanding Americans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- That is why the Immigration Act of 1924, adopted “to preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity” through the use of “scientific racism,” severely restricted where immigrants could from going forward and how many would be admitted to the U.S. every year. Western and Northern Europeans were preferred as they were viewed as white. Under the law adopted, fewer than 3,000 individuals per year could be admitted from Czechoslovakia. The law was supported by the KKK.

# The Great Depression

In late 1929, the Great Depression devastated the American economy. It eventually caused work at Youngstown Sheet & Tube to decrease from a full work week to a sporadic day here and there.

In September 1930, Stephen Jr. married Martha Peters and moved to Youngstown, Ohio. They are our direct forebears.

In 1930, Štefan and Mary found it advisable to sell their farm and to move to Youngstown, Ohio. They purchased a three-bedroom house on Birch Street.



# Crowded Quarters as the Economy Falters

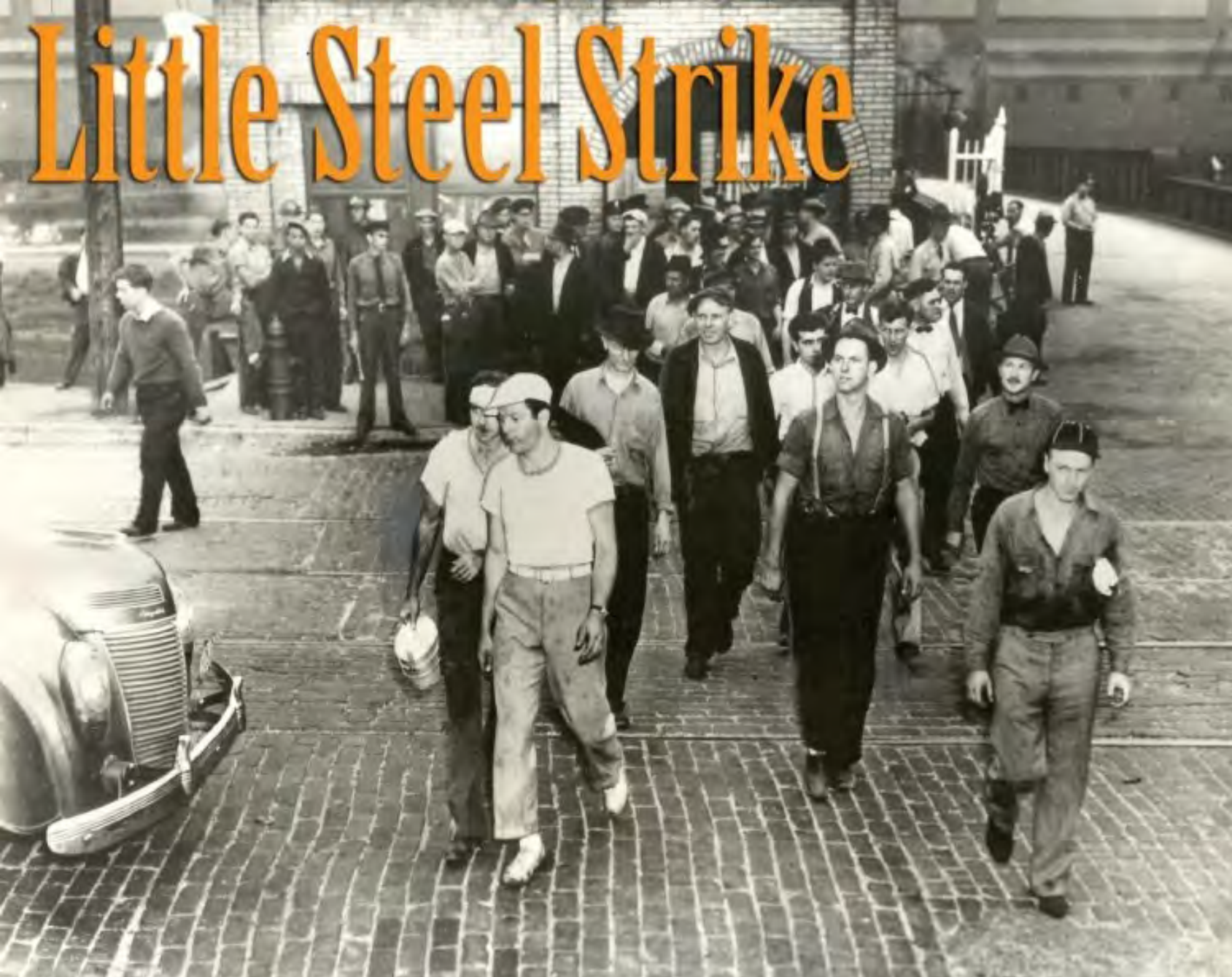
In early 1931, Stephen Jr. and his wife found themselves moving in with his parents, Štefan and Mary.

October 10, 1931, marked the birth of Stephen Jr.'s first child, Stephanie, and also receipt of his final paycheck from the steel mill.

In 1932, Štefan's son Michael and his own family joined the household, and by February 1933, the house on Birch Street sheltered a bustling community of six adults, three teenagers, and four children.

Photograph: Birch street home of Štefan and Mary as seen in the 2000s.





# Little Steel Strike

The Little Steel Strike of 1937 pitted steelworkers, represented by the Congress of Industrial Organizations, against smaller steel manufacturing companies, such as the Republic Steel and Youngstown Sheet & Tube (Štefan's employer), collectively known as Little Steel.



On May 26, 75,000 steelworkers walked out of their plants across the Midwest. They struck over low wages and poor working conditions. However, Little Steel successfully turned public opinion against them and the governor of Ohio sent troops to break up the strike. Discouraged by the lack of progress and continuing violence (eighteen steel-workers died that summer), strikers returned to work by the end of July.



While defeated in the Little Steel Strike, the union eventually won its case before the National Labor Relations Board, which granted recognition, back pay, and reinstatement of fired union members. By 1942 further organizing drives secured collective bargaining agreements with the steel manufacturing companies.



# Prosperity after the labor unrest through the End of World War II

During and after the war, Štefan continued to work at the mill as a skilled machinist.



A life well-lived.

Štefan and Mary in 1942.



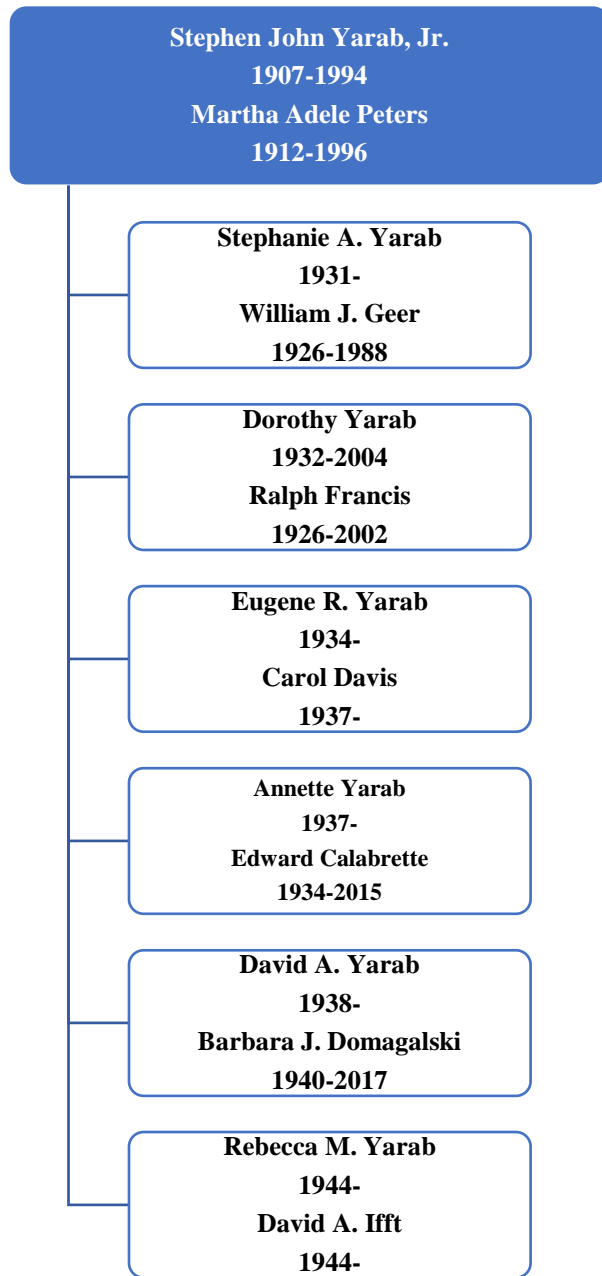
Mary passed away at the age of 57 on March 6, 1944, while Štefan departed at the age of 71 on September 13, 1956.

During their lives, they bore witness to the tumultuous events of two world wars, significant labor unrest, extraordinary social tensions, a pandemic, and the collapse of empires, as well as weathered the depths of The Great Depression. However, amidst these historical upheavals, their most cherished achievement was the nurturing of a loving family, witnessing the marriage of their children, and rejoicing in the birth of their grandchildren.

As a testament to their enduring bond, Mary and Štefan lie in eternal rest together at Calvary Cemetery, a Catholic burial ground located in Youngstown, Ohio.



As mentioned earlier, Stefan and Mary's son, Stephen Jr. married Martha A. Peters in September 1930. They are our direct forebears. Their children and spouses are listed in the chart.





Standing Right to Left : Eugene Yarab, Rebecca Ifft, Stephanie Geer, and David Yarab. Sitting Right to Left: Dorothy Francis, Stephen Yarab, Martha Yarab, and Annette Calabrette.



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*Prepared by Donald S. Yarab  
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