

Fel Kielens 8:30

Pa's [Louis Kardos, grandfather of Paul Kardos] story –  
told to me [Aunt Margaret] Aug 31, 1978

21 days on boat – sick 5 days on ship. On March 5, 1905, on a Sunday we were near America. We could see we were close to land and it rained all Sunday afn [afternoon], but when we awoke Monday morn, it was clear, and the sun was shining when we landed in New York. We went to Castle Guard, later called Ellis Is. He spent ½ in Castle Guard and then left to find the home of neighbors from his village in Hungary who were living in Brooklyn. With their name and address pinned on his coat, he found them and they welcomed him. 4 days later, he got a job, woodwork. He worked in a shop that made saltboxes, the kind that hung on the wall and had a little lift up lid on wooden hinges. They were told never to touch the inside of the saltbox. (sanitary reasons) He worked there until maybe July. At first he made \$1.00 day, then \$1.15, then \$1.25 by the time he left. He paid \$5.00 for the room & Laundry. [illegible] \$10.00 for Board \$15.00 for the month [illegible]

They had 3 children, 2 boys and a girl. The boys did not want to associate with me or teach me. They spoke mostly English They were, I found them very good to me, they would help me but later I was convinced they wanted to be with the English speaking, not me. I even wrote to my mother and told her they were good boys, but they were not the good friends to me I was hoping they would be. The girl was 10 years old and liked me almost like I was a brother. For the reason with the brothers, I decided to move out. The girl did not want me to leave. In October I met 2 young fellows and first tried whiskey. I had never spent a cent all this time I was working except the room and board. I was in a saloon only 2x before Oct. I choked on the whiskey & drank only beer after that. We would get a little pail filled with beer for 10 cents. In NY I heard a couple of fellows in Bpt [Bridgeport, Conn.] [illegible] going back to my village. I went to see them and all I did was go out to shop for girls to take home, first with one, and then with the other. They were so free with their money. I could not keep up with those boys. I looked for girls that I could send home, but I found nothing I could buy to send. In Nov or Dec I came to Bpt. [Bridgeport, Conn.] I got a job in the Acme Shear Co. Dani Bocchi [Uncle Don, his brother-in-law] worked there. I worked there 10 years and left because the steel dust was bad and I could not breathe. It didn't bother Doni Bochi and he would just put a big [illegible] of tobacco in his cheek and work away. Pauli B [Uncle Paul, another brother-in-law] (Meni Neni's husband, my best friend) told me to get a job there where he worked. I worked there 2 - 2½ years. Ma worked there too. Meri Neni [Aunt Mary] worked at the Plush shop.

[top of page] [illegible] 1882 Pa's father came to America and spend 3½ years here - worked on building the B&O RR [Baltimore & Ohio Railroad]. He said his father had about \$200-250.00 in Hung. Money when he came home to Felso Lanc Hungary [today is Slovakia].

*Above are notes by Aunt Margaret, aka Margaret Kardos (Quent's mother), retyped by Paul Kardos on Aug. 30, 2020. Where I (Paul) have added clarifying notes, my notes are in brackets, e.g. [Bridgeport].*