

## PART I

In order to relate the history of the Bayard Street Presbyterian Church, it would be of value to its younger members to sketch, the circumstances that uprooted their grandparents and great grandparents from Hungary and placed them in the alien country of the United States and specifically in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Let those of us, not of Hungarian heritage remember that our background was often similarly troubled and rewarded.

In the discovery of the newworld, Hungarians also have a claim. A companion of Leif Ericson, Tyrker a Hungarian, may have been a visitor to America before the —Mayflower and possibly landed on Labrador. Tyrker was the foster father of Leif, his name a nickname for "Turk" which in those days was the name given Hungarians even by Byzantine authors. Unfortunately the German and several Slavonic nations also claim Tyrker.

A Dr. Pivany feels that even the name "America" may have originated from the popular princely Saint Emreh or St. Emeric, which became "Emericus" in Latin and "Amerigo" in Italian. In 1578, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a step-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh was sent on a six year mission to colonize America. In 1583 one of the members of his expedition, Stephanus Parmenius Budaeus, a Hungarian poet of Protestant parents, was made the official chronicler of the expedition. Unfortunately the ship anchored at Newfoundland and after a few days went out to sea again, when it was grounded on a sandbar and all aboard were drowned.

In the eighteenth century, George Washington had a Hungarian officer in his army, one Michael Kovats who was born in Karczag Ujszalas.

In New Mexico and California, Hungarian Jesuits were well established long before either territory became a state.

On March 15, 1848, the Ides of March for Hungary, the Hungarian Revolution began. In 1851 Lajos Kossuth, the leader of the revolution and former governor of Hungary came to the United States to lead an unsuccessful campaign for funds for the revolution and then returned to Hungary. His soldiers later made up the first wave of Hungarian immigrants to the United States. Another factor around the same time that contributed to the tales of America that tempted the sorely-ried home folks was a two volume book written by Mokcsai Harcszthy, "Journey in America" of his experiences here. He bought 10,000 acres in Wisconsin territory, founded a town and brought his parents, wife and children to the United States. One of those children later introduced cuttings of the Muscat Alexandria grape which became the beginnings of the California raisin industry and was an indirect factor to California becoming the greatest wine producing state.