

My address: Mrs. Sándor Siskovits (Siskovits Sándorné), Kosarócz Post Office Göröginye through Homonna.

Dear brother Géza,

When the correspondence with America started I was waiting that you, like the rest of the compatriots, will write, but until now we know nothing about each other; so I am beginning the correspondence. - When the war broke out in 1914, my son László was serving his volunteer year as a rifleman¹. He did not even come home, he went straight from Klagenfurt to the Russian front. He always wrote us while they were on their way, but from the front he did not even write once because there were huge fights going on there at the time. On August 29, during the night he was wounded at Pavlovna and he died, right there, but we only learned about that in 1915. So I have no more sons. I had another one, but he had died when he was four years old in scarlet fever. My two daughters are at home by our side. Alone we would not even be able to carry on with farming because my husband is a weak, sick man. He can barely walk, even at home only with a cane. - I myself can no longer go up and down the mountains and I have enough to do at home too. My older daughter goes to the notary's office to write, and very inexpensively. She receives 83 koronas a month and she eats at home. - At least she buys her own clothes because my husband's pension is so little and labor is very expensive, there are hardly any koronas left after we pay the hired hand. At the beginning of the war we also escaped from the Russian breakthrough. The girls were in Miskolcz for three months. I was away only for a month. We had very much damage, they took all the animal feed, they stole it. So we could barely keep one cow til the spring. We had to re-equip the farm and we had to buy everything anew. From 1916 to 19 it just went somehow, but the year 19 totally did us in. Our crop was not more than what we had sown. We had to get produce from Bánócz and Vásárhely at an expensive price. We had two pigs that died and now we cannot even buy another one, they are so expensive. Such is life here. Yet, the money turnover is great among the people because they work everything themselves, they breed cattle, pigs, small livestock and they sell it at a tremendous price. - We were planning to go live in the city, where the girls can earn more and we have the pension, so modestly we can make a living. Here we would sell everything. But among the present circumstances it would be even worse in the city and now you cannot sell, or buy. - I already wrote everything about ourselves. Now it is your turn to write, as soon as possible! Describe your family, all of them, and send a photo of yourself and of your family. I would send you one, but I do not know whether you will receive my letter. I am not sure whether you are still at this address. Ilona is in Kassa. She lives in Margits's house. Until now she took in boarders, now she no longer writes to me, so

I do not know how she is. Margits live in Szepsi. One of her daughters is a teacher locally, one son is a soldier, one goes to high school, and two little girls go to school at home. Emma, Mrs. Forgács died. Just please, write as soon as possible! God bless you all, all of us embrace you and kiss you, all of you, and I remain your loving sister

Gizi

Kosarócz, March 7, 1920.

Dear Diane,

Thank you for your lovely card. I am sorry it took so long. Next time it will be better.

I will be out of town until December 6, but after that I am ready for the next letter.

Best regards,

Helen

¹ After graduating from high school, before going to university, it was possible to serve one year in the military as a volunteer and become a minor reserve officer when the year was over, instead of serving for three years when drafted.