

# Old family pictures telling a story...

My grandmother was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December in 1942 in Čechy, which is a village near to Nové Zámky. You can see it in the first picture. Her name is Hajdú Zsófia, born Puskás.



Her parents, who lived in Bardoňovo were farmers until 1950. Her father, Puskás Árpád had fought in the SWW and in the Don Bend, due to the fact that he was a prisoner of war in Austria, there he had been sentenced to death - but at the end he was released. She lived with her parents in a detached house, which had been built in 1920. You can see it in the second picture. At that time the average houses were one-storey farmhouses which were long and contained 5-6 rooms in a row. This village at that time had about 1000 inhabitants. The population of the village was more than half Hungarian and the other part was Slovak.

My grandma had one brother who was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in 1945. At that time there weren't any kindergartens in villages so she was at home and took care about her brother. Both of them had had to work a lot in their young ages, because their family had had lot of animals and my grandma had to help with the housework. When her brother was young, he had studied as a mechanic and when he became adult, he started to work for a factory which was abroad. Later on, he started his own business which was a good choice, because he could spend more time with his family.

Her mother, Pálinkás Margit lived 80 years and her father, Puskás Árpád lived 75 years, but he had some health problems with his leg, which had got frozen in the World war.

The years of war she spent with her parents and at this period his brother was born.

At that time she was too young, so she does not remember that, but she heard many short stories about how the village was bombed and how the German and Russian forces fought over the village. At the end of the World war they had their christening in the local reformed church.



My grandma started school in a very young age, because at that time it was needed to start working as soon as possible. The lower-secondary school she visited in the neighbouring village. It was about 3 km away. She went there on foot every day. When in 1948 she started a primary school, the first two grades she had had to study in Slovak language, because at that time the education in Hungarian language was not allowed. So she could start learning in Hungarian language when she started her third grade in the primary school. You can see it in the third picture.

In her class there were 15 students and in one classroom were five classes, which means there were about 70 pupils. In primary school a class had one teacher for all subjects in the first five grades, she had about 8 types of subjects and all of her teachers were very strict. At that time they went to school six times of the week, so on Saturdays too. Every day after school she helped her family in the household.

At Christmas time the snow was often too big to go to school to the neighbouring village. In those days people in villages usually went to church and they visited their friends and relatives. At Christmas they usually got smaller gifts than nowadays, f.e. clothes, shoes.

In her free time my grandma read a lot and played with her friends. She thinks that in her childhood it was harder to be a child, because at that time it was war and the medicine was not as developed as it is now. She says that children nowadays are luckier, because there isn't any world war, it is calm and the medicine is more developed than it was in her childhood.

She started working when she was 15, you can see her in the fourth picture. Her first job was chosen by her parents, which was in the local cooperative, where she had been working for ten years. After that she graduated in a secondary vocational school and she became a cook.

She got married at the age of 19, in the fifth photo you can see her in 1961 before her wedding.

Now she has two daughters, Ildikó and Anikó and a son, András. You can see them in the sixth picture. She also has six grandchildren. All of her children graduated at university. In the last picture you can see her son and her younger daughter with her first five grandchildren: Attila, Boglárka, Réka, Zsóka, András. Her last grandchild, Csenge was born later. Currently she is living alone in

Bardoňovo, because her husband died in 2009.

Hajdú

András