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Reflections of 17 days in Europe

Thursday, June 19, 2014

In country #1 I remember family – present and past
Those I travelled with:



DH, DD (Hayburner1969), her DH, & 3 kids.

The family I first discovered in 2008 in Slovakia - 70 years after the last contact.
In Bratislava, the capital, we visited with these.

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Bratislava is a great city, only 45 miles from Vienna.

At the Eastern end of the country we visited with more relatives



Through it all I remembered those that went before us, leaving their villages for an unknown future in a new country where they couldn't even speak the language – my grandparents Katarina and Gregory.



I think about those who stayed behind and persevered through difficult times – 2 World Wars fought right where they were living, the same Great Depression that affected the USA and 50 years of Communism.

We walked the same land my grandparents saw.

The castle above my Grandmother's village. The 19th century houses below have been gathered from around the country as an open air museum.



From the castle you can see the towns of the countryside.



My grandmother's village (Sambron) looking down from the cemetery.



Medzilaborce at the Eastern end of the country near my grandfather's village (Habura)



My grandfather died in 1935 during a visit to family in the "old country." My mother was 13. Now 3 generations that he never knew are visiting his grave.



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PHEBESS
What an amazing trip you had - wonderful!!!!!!
2549 days ago



GINA180847
Such an amazing trip. You are still connected to all those people by such a thin thread but nonetheless. Shivers up my spine.
2550 days ago



MISCHAKEO
What a lovely family and what wonderful connections., I am so glad your family went with you. Thanks for sharing a delightful trip.



2550 days ago



LINDAKAY228
What an amazing trip! I'm glad you got to do it and connect with so many family members. Amazing story of their history!
2550 days ago



CD13758606
What a trip of a lifetime! Going back to family roots has a grounding affect.



2550 days ago



SPINNINGJW
What a wonderful trip. Thanks for sharing your photos and story.
2550 days ago



DOVESEYES
Wonderful thanks for sharing this.
2550 days ago





PHOENIX1949



I get 'genealogy goosebumps' when reading of such connections.
2550 days ago



WATERMELLEN

What a gift to your family -- young and old -- to make those connections. We find out who we are by seeing where we've come from.
2550 days ago

v



TERI-RIFIC

Awesome trip and history! Beautiful country. What an experience for the younger ones!!



2550 days ago

v



SYLPHINPROGRESS

You've given a gift to your Slovak family in sharing the next generations from America. The American contingent also has a greater sense of their history and continuity. I hope your grandkids grow up appreciating this. They appear old/grown-up enough for it.

2550 days ago

Comment edited on: 6/19/2014 5:18:50 PM

v



GINIEMIE

It so great that you got to introduce your daughter, SIL, and grands to the family left behind. I've been able to introduce 3 of my 5 children, but none of the grandchildren. I love your pictures. I just outside of Vienna in Biedermannsdorf. I wan't too far from where you went. I'm glad you got to go back.



2551 days ago

v



SARAWALKS

It's so exciting that you were able to bring the younger family members too! Beautiful scenery -

and what a moving history.

2551 days ago



v



LEWILL1982

That's awesome, what a great history that you had the opportunity to share with your children and grandchildren!
2551 days ago

v



DR1939

Lovely.
2551 days ago

v



IFDEEARUNS2

What a trip! And wonderful family photos. Thanks for sharing.
2551 days ago

v

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