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To the Editor of the Star

By a curious coincidence, the late noted restaurateur, Julius Lulley died exactly one hundred years after his grandfather, Emmanuel Lulley arrived in America on the U.S. "Mississippi" which was sent to Asia Minor for the famous Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth to bring him over here as a guest of the nation. There were about 55 people in the entourage of Kossuth, all exiles after the unsuccessful Hungarian uprising in 1848-49, who until then, for about a year and a half, were interned by the Turkish government in Kutahia, Asia Minor.

Emmanuel Lulley who did some intelligence work during the war (later here in the Civil War he rose to be Major), succeeded in escaping Hungary with some thousands of soldiers, who after the capitulation of the Hungarian forces to the Russians, crossed the Danube with Kossuth and found temporary haven in the Balkans which at that time was entirely Turkish territory. The Russians demanded the extradition of Kossuth and his followers, which demand -at the risk of war- was categorically denied by the gallant Turks.

Emmanuel Lulley evidently was a good family man, since he took with himself not only his wife and five children, but his mother-in-law also, thus demonstrating the heroic stuff he must have been made of. When the congress of the U.S. sent the most modern warship of her Navy, the ten years old steam frigate "Mississippi" (1692 tons, 147 personnel, destroyed at Port Hudson, March 14, 1863) to the port of Gemlik in the Dardanelles to pick up the Hungarians, Lulley's entire family was there. Kossuth, who was a notoriously soft-hearted man, consented to include them in his entourage.

Kossuth left the American ship at Gibraltar and went to England, arriving from there in New York Dec.4,1851. The "Mississippi" arrived Nov.10,1851 with the rest of the Hungarians who were given a royal welcome by the authorities and people of New York. Julius Lulley the son of one of the 5 Lulley children who arrived that day, died Nov.11,1951.

The grandfather also dabbled in the culinary arts in which his grandson became so proficient. At the end of 1850 the Turks established a separate restaurant in Kutahia for the Hungarians and delegated Lulley to be its manager. The venture, however was far from being a success. The food was very expensive and very bad, consequently the restaurant was soon closed. I am glad to hear that the grandson amply atoned for the culinary shortcomings of his grandsire. When doing research on the participation of Hungarians in the Civil War, some 12 years ago, I met Julius Lulley once, but I am sorry to say- I never tasted his food.

The Americans of Hungarian extraction will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Kossuth's seven months long American tour. (He visited Washington twice. Beside Lafayette he was the second foreigner to address both Houses of Congress, was feted by the members of the Congress and dined at the White House. (Mr. John Claggett Preator and local historians, please note.)

We hoped to include Julius Lulley in our local celebration, to be held in March, 1952, when the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America (a nationwide fraternal association for Protestant Hungarians) will officially open its new headquarters, the "Kossuth House" which was the former mansion of the late Mabel Boardman, at 1801 "P" Street, N.W., next door to the Patterson house and across the Sulgrave Club. This hope was shattered by his untimely death.

Edmund Vasvary

1801 P Street, N.W.