

Last Hungarian American BAROTHY Charles Civil War Veteran



CHARLES BAROTHY

This issue of the Verhovay Journal marks the first anniversary of the bi-monthly English Section.

Many changes have been wrought in the short space of one year, but we shall not enumerate them here.

Instead, we affectionately and with deep respect dedicate the First Anniversary Bi-Monthly English Verhovay Journal to venerable Charles Barothy, only living Hungarian American Civil War Veteran, with the short story that follows.

Charles Barothy was born in 1846 in Nagyvárad, Hungary. At the age of 9 he and his elder brother Géza, 11 immigrated to America with their father. The father had been a colonel under Kossuth

in the Hungarian War of Independence, 1848-1849. In 1858 young Charles and his father went to Nebraska, while Géza and the mother remained in Davenport, Iowa. Later the family was reunited in Omaha, Nebraska.

As an 18 year old boy Charles joined one of the Omaha regiments on February 18, 1864, and served two years and nine months as a private. When he enlisted the recruiting officer could not pronounce "Kálmán," Barothy's real name, and so he called him "Charles," and by that name Barothy entered the War.

Barothy also holds the distinction of being one of the very few Hungarian "Indian fighters," being on one occasion a member of a military party which was sent out against hostile Indians.

It is interesting to know how we have knowledge of Mr. Barothy, for it was due entirely to fortuitous circumstances.

In 1938, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg was commemorated by the reunion in Gettysburg of the Northern and Southern armies. The groups of veterans were liberally photographed, and on one of these pictures appeared Charles Barothy. The picture

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was seen by a Hungarian minister who deduced from the name that the old gentleman was a Hungarian, and thus was Barothy brought to the public eye.

Mr. Barothy is married and had three children, a daughter and two sons, who died at a very early age. Dr. Arpad M. Barothy of Chicago, Illinois is a younger brother.

Mr. and Mrs. Barothy live quietly in Omaha, Nebraska.

Civil War Veteran Barothy is now about 95 years of age.

Some months ago President Joseph Darago ordered that a free lifetime subscription to the Verhovay Journal be given to old Barothy.

(Information obtained from the book "Lincoln's Hungarian Heroes," by Edmund Vasvary, and from private letters written by Mr. Barothy to Albert Jozik.)

