

# BIRNBAUM, Joseph

## G. A. R. in Budapest

By S. M. DE LOFFRE

IT was in Budapest, at the Ritz. An old man approached me and offered to be my guide: "Colonel, I see by the register that you are an officer of the United States Army. I want to offer my services to you gratis," he said. "I, too, have been in the American Army.

"I was born in Budapest and was taken to America at two years old. In the Civil War I served around Washington. I was actually present when Garrett's barn was fired, and John Wilkes Booth was shot by the Sergeant as he was making for the barn door with his carbine in his hand. Colonel, it may seem strange to you, but what impressed me most at the time was the beautiful face of that young man Booth, rather than the tragic circumstances surrounding his capture and death.

"Since the World War it has fallen to me in my old age to be the sole support of my family, and I have adopted my present profession as a means of livelihood. Tomorrow I will show you a picture of myself in uniform, my only relic of the past."

True to his word, the next day he produced an old daguerreotype, taken in Albany, N. Y., of a young man in the uniform of the Union Army. This was undoubtedly the Joseph Birnbaum now standing before us—the oldest guide in Budapest.

Naturally, he was not allowed to guide us gratis.

Civil War  
veteran

V. Ö. aikkal

Lásd

"Lincoln"

Kötelek III.

Legvégén

9. Times  
Magazine,

1922

Dec. 17, p. 14.