

Correct email is davidandarlene@gmail.com

## Arlene Brown

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**From:** "Elizabeth Fatzinger"  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2002 2:29 PM  
**Subject:** notes from Schmidt e-mail

Her are the notes I wrote down from when I read the e-mail about Elizabeth Payer Schmidt to my Aunt Elizabeth. I guess I'll just write them in the order the subjects came up.

Arlene and David Brown have a home in Ascot, England and Delray, Florida. Their e-mail is [redacted] They wanted to know how to find the Payer website. Her parents are Irene and Lawrence Tamasovich. Lawrence was the son of Ellen Gyomber and Joseph Tamasovich. Great Aunt Elizabeth's sister Ellen is Mariana Payer and George Gyomber's daughter.

Ethel Gyomber and Father Belafi lived in Slovakia. They had a daughter Marta (died 1988) who married Miroslav Stoczek (died 1992). They had four children: Irena (married a man first name Karol); Darina; Jano (a man); and Tono. George met Tono's family in 1994 I think--wife Magda Mackova and 4 children Miro, Jano, Palo and Tona. George was in Slovakia armed with an address in Humenne from the '50's supplied by Great Aunt Elizabeth. No one was home, so he went to a local bookstore to buy a map of the town. The store keeper knew the address and was a friend of the people who lived there. She made a phone call and in a few minutes Tono came by foot and took George to his home. The 8 year old daughter knew some grade school English, Geo knew grade school Russian and the rest spoke Slovak. After getting their lineages straight, they had pelmeni (like pierogies) and Pepsi for dinner before walking him to the train station.

Great Aunt Elizabeth remembers going with her mother on a short train ride when she was 6 or so. They went to visit Aunt Elizabeth Schmidt either to the south near Kosice, or possibly north to Poland which also wasn't very far. Aunt Schmidt was bedfast. She had two sons that were school teachers. One was "Pishta" who was there caring for his mother with a maid. He and the maid had a child together, but she doesn't think they married. It isn't clear whether they already had the child or if they had the child while caring for the mother.

In the picture of Elizabeth Schmidt with her husband, Aunt E. said Aunt Schmidt had some facial characteristics and the body structure of her own oldest sister Anna Gyomber--Milton Tokash's mother. And on the man she exclaimed "What a moustache!" His son Steve (Pishta) had a trained one too. Pishta once visited Csingi-Lingi The home of the Gyomers. Csingi-Lingi was at the crossroads of the road to Dluhe and the road to Poland. The house also had a school connected where George taught. There was a Jewish synagogue opposite the house. Next to "us" was like a hotel for travelers

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with a store, bowling alley, horse stables and horse feed. Across the road from "us" was a little candy store. At least when Aunt Eliz. was given candy as a payment for blowing out the lights on the Sabbath, since the Jews couldn't touch fire. Then there was a bridge that crossed the river that ran behind their home -the Laborec. If you look on a map of Slovakia in the very NE corner by the Ukraine and Poland you can see the river. The town north on the river is Medzi-Laborec and to the south, Koskovce.

There was class distinction with two classes of people- the peasants and the Intelligentsia. The Gyombers belonged to the Intelligentsia. Great Aunt E. spoke Hungarian as a child under Emperor Franz Jozef. She can still read some now. Remember it was the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Europe. The individual countries were mostly just ethnic identity regions until after the World Wars. The Emperor was kind to them in Slovakia, but to the Yugoslavs he was a terrorist. Her Grandfather Dzumber (Gyomber is the Hungarian spelling with the same pronunciation) was a grain merchant who bought grain in Yugoslavia and sold it by horse and wagon in Austria and the Ukraine. Apparently the Yugoslavs were simple farmers and the only thing they had going for them was vast quantities of grain.

Phew. We covered lots of territory with all that. There are lots of details that can be added, but this is what came up when stimulated by your e-mail. I also have some notes on pictures I took from the website to her. I'll send that later, for now, be well and savor this info. She is really tired today and getting a bit fearful. She wants to make sure you understand she is not well or she would write you herself. Enjoy

George for Elizabeth

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