

John's Story



Childhood Memoirs
by John Roeth

Tibornak és Zsuzsának
szerepével

John

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Preface

This is the history of my family and the story of my life up to my twenty-fourth year. It is written for my children and grandchildren and any friends who might be interested. The main reason for writing it is that the personal parts are based entirely on my memory and would be lost once I am gone.

I have tried to place the personal story within the history of the times. Because we are a Jewish family, I have concentrated on history from a Jewish point of view. Finding the right balance between the historical and the personal has been a challenge to which I hope I have managed to rise.

The reason that I end the story at twenty-four is that the early years of my life spanned Nazism, Communism and migration. They were extraordinary times and, as a result, my life was extraordinary. The times since then have been more ordinary, at least in the places where I have lived. The cataclysmic events of history have not affected me the way they did when I was a child. As a result, life has been happier, calmer and more satisfying, but also less interesting for others to read about.

We are all shaped by the people and events that came before us. By learning about them, the generations after me will gain a better understanding of themselves.

John Roseth

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