

FOREWORD

This study of the history of Hungarians in Texas was begun during the summer of 1985 at the Institute of Texan Cultures. No previous attempt had been made to write a history of the Hungarians in Texas prior to that date. Identifying individual Hungarian pioneers involved combing through community, church, county, city, and Texas histories as well as the existing body of Hungarian Americana in both English and Hungarian. Further, word-of-mouth identification of previously unknown individuals in our history proved helpful. All areas of the state of Texas were searched for the Hungarians.

Problems encountered in Hungarian source materials were solved with the assistance of Hungarian readers knowledgeable in both languages. Names, often distorted by census takers, presented special problems. In cases where descendants assisted us, we accepted the current, if anglicized, spelling of family names and, often, the nonuse of diacritics. Spelling variants which appeared in the data are given, as well as nicknames and anglicized given names. The overall result may appear uneven, since we also attempted to use proper Hungarian given and surname spellings and diacritics as accurately as possible.

Places in the old Kingdom of Hungary were given their actual Hungarian names rather than the Slovak, Czech, Ukrainian, Polish, Serbian, Croatian, Rumanian, or German versions of their names. Many

of Texas' Hungarians were born and lived in areas which are today part of Hungary's neighboring states.

The Hungarian research files at the Institute of Texan Cultures are available to scholars and the public. We hope that additional information will be added in the future as more data becomes available or is discovered in dusty attics and archives. Photograph negatives of historical Hungarian pioneers and their Texas descendants are also maintained for future use.