

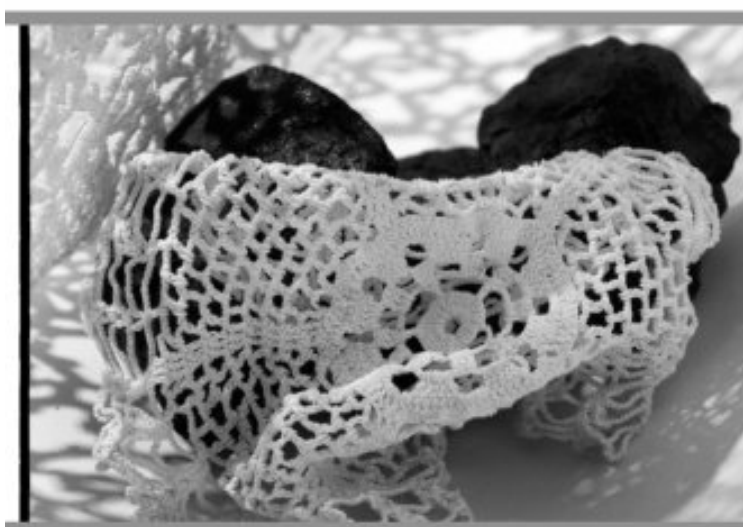
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The Weight of Coal and Lace: The Story of Andras and Sophie Kuchta

Colleen B. Tierney

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THE WEIGHT OF COAL & LACE



The Story of Andras
and Sophie Kuchta

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On May 4, 1904 Andras Kuchta arrived at Ellis Island from Austria-Hungary. He was part of the large immigration wave that swept through the United States in the early part of the Twentieth Century. Coal was the economic king in America and coke burned to create the best steel in the world. Working in the Washington Coal and Coke Mine in Star Junction, PA from 1904-1924, Andras faced horrific dangers seen and unseen, brutal struggles related to unionization, worries about his family left in Europe, a world at war, neglect and intolerance. His wife, Sophie, gave birth to five children in their shanty home without electricity, running water, an inside bathroom, or a doctor, but held on to a belief that she and Andras could make a better life for their children. This is an American story of hope, determination, and survival.

About the Author Colleen Tierney is a retired teacher/administrator living on Little Diamond Island, Maine and in Sarasota, Florida.