

Laszlo Gaspar And His Cousins



This picture is a family snapshot 'in the summer of 1928 in Nagyvarad.' I think it was taken in front of the temple. My husband Andris explained me once that he had many cousins. This is Gaspar Laci, his brother, third from the left in the back row. The first woman in the back row is Obi [Berta], his elder sister. All the others are their cousins. The first man sitting from the left, in the first row, that's Pali [Pal] Revesz. His sister Kati Revesz was my classmate and I had a crush on Pali Revesz when I was a little girl. He became a doctor. I liked him very much. He had those black eyes...

I don't know who the bride is, I don't know her. First from right in the back row that's Mihaly Szilagyi, Misi. He is also one of their cousins, his younger brother is second from right. They moved to Hungary. I only met them when they grew old. They had a ticket-office on the main square. He and his wife emigrated to Germany. They had been deported and they received a huge compensation from the Germans. While we were there in Germany, we didn't stay at their place, but we spent quite a long time together. Once she called me on the phone and told me he got paralyzed. He is around ninety years old now and moves around in a wheel-chair. Laci died a long time ago. I don't know the other ones in the picture.

Laci Gaspar, my husband's elder brother has not been deported, because he, for the sake of his wife, converted to Christianity and he wasn't taken away because he wore the white armband. Andris was a late-born, her mother was 43 when she gave birth to him. He had an elder sister, who was 16 years older than him, and she didn't come home, neither. And none of his relatives, especially his mother. His father was a lawyer, but he died of heart-attack when Andris was in twelfth grade of high school, and he left them nothing. By then his bother was already working and he had to help out his mother, while Andris had to sustain himself: he gave lessons to the weaker students for money.