

Josze Antal's ID For Commercial Travelers



This is my paternal grandfather Jozsef Antal's ID card for commercial travelers, issued in Budapest, 1903. My grandfather was born in Tata in 1869. I think his father lived in Austria, and he was named something like Anton. But I don't know much about them, only that he was already Antal when, in the 1930s I knew him for a few years, because he died in 1938. I was so little, that when he died, I didn't understand why so many people were coming. I was just staring, 'Look how many guests there are!' and I started to laugh. And my mother told me, 'Shh, shh, this is because grandfather died'. After that, they hardly talked about him. Grandmother always cried, 'Poor papa!' He wasn't too old, he must have been about 60. As far as I know he was born in Budapest. I think he was a kind of trader. I'm sure he didn't have a shop here. He may have been an employee at some kind of company. Whether my grandfather was religious, I don't know, but the two of them, my grandfather and grandmother, observed holidays, I think; at least, they kept the fast [on Yom Kippur]. Perhaps they even went to the synagogue, but I'm not sure about that. They didn't tell me about it because my father had converted to Christianity.