

# A Young Man On the Quest for His Own Hungarian Past

Dejan Süč

Library – Cultural Centre Lendava

Gaberje, Glavna ulica 33, 9220 Lendava, Slovenia

+386 40 596 118

dejan.suc@kkl.si

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this presentation, the presenter will present his own research, looking for his long lost family. The presenter started doing genealogical research in 2012, after a series of strange events got him thinking that there might be a number of family members spreaded around the world. But it all started with one box, full of old photos of ancient everyday life in his hometown, nowadays called Lendava in Republic of Slovenia, what was Alsólendva before the Treaty of Trianon in 1920.

The photos had no names or whatsoever written on their back, so they were of a misere genealogical importance for the presenter. Also, no one with the researched surname lived in the area or even in the country itself. He remembered that, as a kid, he and his family used to visit an old Jewish cemetery not far from the place he lives now. This was the beginning of the quest for his lost family.

Over the past six years, the presenter has travelled to a number of overseas countries, including Australia, Brasil, Canada and United States of America on the search for people who might know something. This is the story of the Eppinger family, that settled in late 18th century in the wider region of nowadays Western Hungary, and in the following decades the descendants and other connecting family members of the family spread around the Europe, involving founders of restaurants in Trieste, wholesalers in Budapest, lawyers in Vienna, photographers in Buenos Aires, hotel owners in Lendava and others.

## 2. METHODS

The main idea of the presentation is to show the main methods and sources the presenter used in his research. Because there was a number of different sources used, that were also kept in different countries, this is also an interesting case study, because it will show the differences between genealogical research in different areas of the pre - Trianon Kingdom of Hungary, that are nowadays a consisting part of newly established countries in 1920.

The borders have changed, the official language has changed and most important, the sources are also not anymore kept there, where they were used to be in the period that the presenter

was researching. Understanding and speaking all of these languages made the research a bit easier, but still, there were some difficulties, which will be shown. Also the solutions for the same difficulties, even though not always they were found, will be presented by the presenter.

Beside the traditional research work, made in the archives in Hungary, Slovenia, Austria and Croatia, an important part of the research was made through online sources, that made the whole research much easier and considerably cheaper. A number of sites will be presented, that the listeners might find very helpfull in their genealogical research in the wider area of Kingdom of Hungary.

The genealogical research the presenter has made, culminated in the visit of 12 members of the Eppinger family in their ancestral town, what was the first visi tof the family members after 77 years. The presenter will speak about his experience with aproaching total strangers and telling them more about their family history, which in many cases was very sad, as many of the family members perished in Auschwitz and other concentration camps.