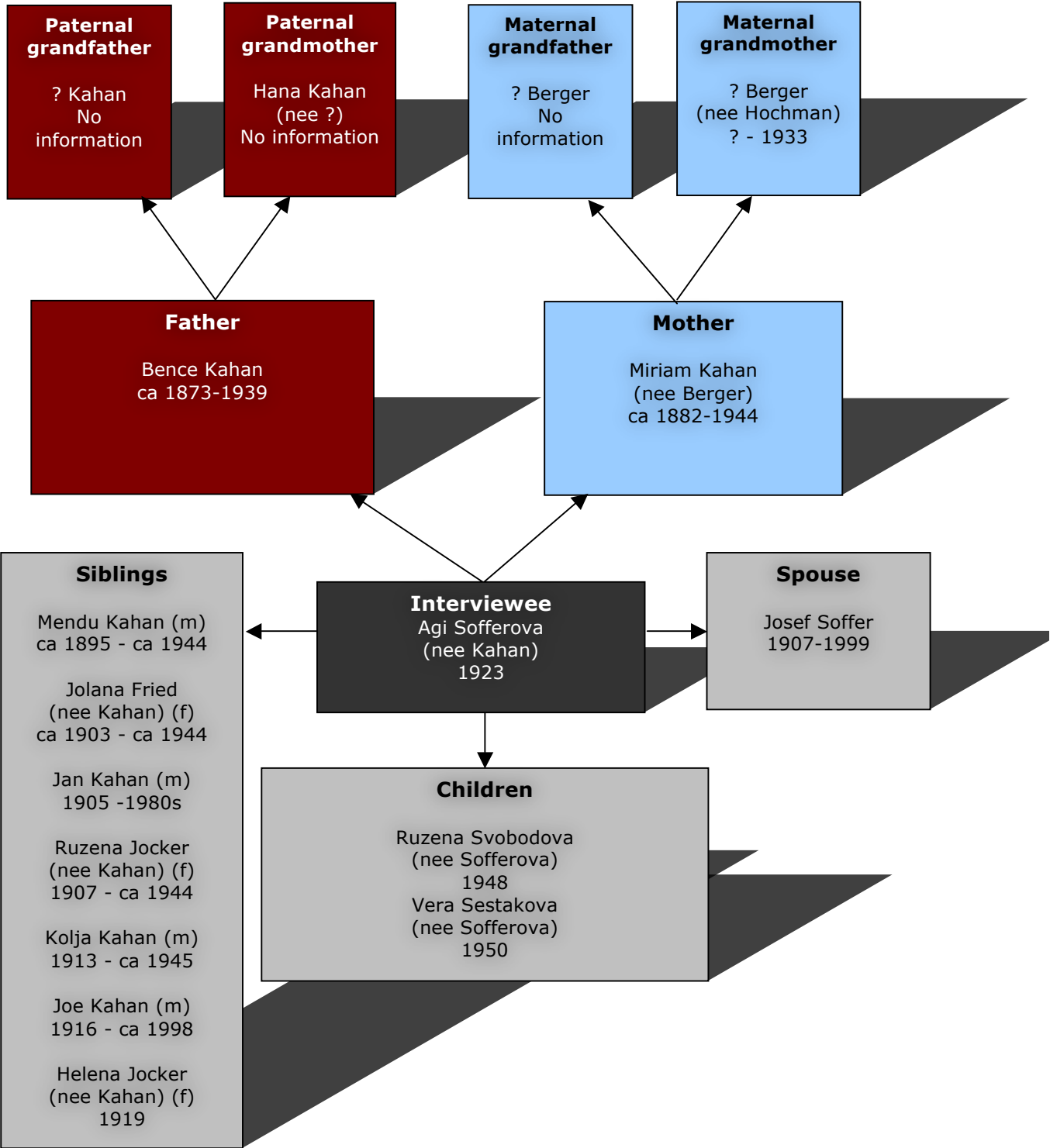


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Agi Sofferova (nee Kahan)

Where and when were you born?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine), 15th March 1923

Where else did you live?

Znojmo

Your educational level

Nursery school teacher's course (ca. 1958 – 1960)

What sort of work do/did you do?

Foster mother

Nursery school teacher

How religious was your parents' home? How were you raised?

In Mukachevo all traditions were strictly observed. The kashrut, as it's called, was observed at home. We had three sets of dishes. The Passover ones were kept up in the attic, and always at Easter it had to be brought down, they were decorated ceramic ones. Seder was always a big celebration, because the family would gather. You know, the kids that had already gone out into the wide world would return. That was always nice. Even Saturday was observed, and strictly. They wouldn't cook, wouldn't do anything. My favorite holiday was Passover. That was beautiful. Father would lead the seder, and the family would meet. The New Year [Rosh Hashanah] was also important. Those were probably the most important holidays. But my favorite was Passover, because by then it was already spring. I took the restrictions related to traditions simply as a matter of course. As I've said, Mukachevo was half Jewish, so there it was normal. But later we didn't observe it that much, young people didn't take it that seriously any more, on Saturday we would even turn on the lights. The older generation of course reacted badly to this, especially our father. Because his sons turned away from it

quite a bit, they no longer believed like he did. He was still quite devout, and our mother, too, but not the kids. My older sister Jolan, she observed a lot, everything, even after she got married. The other siblings, Rozi, Jan, Kolja, those not so much any more, I think. They may not have observed things, but they never disowned their origin. Neither did I.

What is your mother tongue?

Hungarian

What other languages do you speak?

Yiddish, German, English, Hebrew

If you were in an army, tell us which army and the dates

-

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Concentration camp: Auschwitz (today Poland) (1944)

Death march: from Auschwitz to Wroclaw (today Poland) (1945)

Concentration camp: Ravensbrück (today Germany) (1945)

Death march: from Ravensbrück (1945)

What did you do after the Holocaust?

Foster mother, nursery school teacher

Siblings

Their names

Mendu (Ubul) Kahan

Jolana (Jolan) Fried (nee Kahan)

Jan Kahan

Ruzena (Rozika, Rozi) Jocker (nee Kahan)

Kolja Kahan

Joe (Josef, Josi) Kahan

Helena (Ibi) Jocker (nee Kahan)

Where and when were they born?

All were born in Mukachevo (today Ukraine)

Mendu: ca 1895

Jolana: ca 1903

Jan: 1905

Ruzena: 1907

Kolja: 1913

Joe: 1916

Helena: 1919

What is their mother tongue?

Hungarian

Their educational level?

Mendu: No information

Jolana: finished elementary school

Jan: No information

Ruzena: No information

Kolja: graduated from the Sorbonne in Paris (France), studied languages

Joe: No information

Helena: teaching college

Their occupations?

Mendu: journalist

Jolana: housewife

Jan: director of a quilted blanket factory

Ruzena: business woman

Kolja: employee of the Polish embassy in Prague

Joe: electrician
Helena: teacher

Where do/did they live?

Mendu: Uzhhorod (today Ukraine)
Jolana: Nyirbator (today Hungary)
Jan: -
Ruzena: Znojmo
Kolja: Prague
Joe: Orpington (Great Britain)
Helena: Znojmo

Where else did they live?

Helena: Halifax (Canada)

Do they have children?

Mendu: one son, died in Auschwitz, ca 1944
Jolana: had two children, Vera (Veruska) (f), born ca 1938, and a son, born ca 1943
Jan: none
Ruzena: had a child that was born during WWII in the Terezin ghetto, and was killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp
Kolja: none
Joe: George (m) 1945, Mary (f) 1947, John (m) 1950, Peter (m)
Helena: Jana (f) 1949, Pavel (m) 1953

Where and when did they die?

Mendu: Auschwitz (today Poland), ca 1944
Jolana: Auschwitz, ca 1944
Jan: Mukachevo (today Ukraine), 1980s
Ruzena: Auschwitz, ca 1944
Kolja: USSR, ca 1945
Joe: Orpington (Great Britain), 1998

Spouse

Name?

Josef Soffer

Where and when was he/she born?

Kravsko, 1907

Where else did he/she live?

Znojmo

Is he/she Jewish?

Yes

What is his/her mother tongue?

Czech

His/her educational level?

He only had public school, but maybe then had some sort of mercantile school, the kind that shop assistants had.

Occupation?

Before the war he had worked as a sales rep for a large company. He sold shirts and ties and was relatively successful. After the war my husband worked for Fruta [National enterprise Fruta Brno: a food company; for example, in 1968 it produced the first Coca Cola beverage under license in Czechoslovakia]. At first as a warehouse employee and then as a buyer. He stayed there until retirement.

Where and when did he/she die?

Znojmo, 1999

Tell me anything you know about his/her siblings (Name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, name of wife and children, whether their family is Jewish and whether it is religious).

Trude (f) (nee Sofferova), lived in Chile and Israel

Herma (Hermina) Bleiberg (nee Sofferova) (f), lived in Austria

Herta Klobucnikova (nee Sofferova) (f), lived in Israel, daughter Ruth

Fritz Soffer (m), died in Israel

Children

Their names?

Ruzena (Ruzenka) Svobodova (nee Sofferova) (f)

Vera (Veruska) Sestakova (nee Sofferova) (f)

Were they raised Jewish/do they identify themselves as Jews?

Back then here, after the war, there wasn't the opportunity for them to marry Jewish boys. Because the Jewish boys were mostly marrying Christian girls, and we had to take it as it came. Both I and my daughters. When they were still young, they used to meet with Jewish boys in Brno, but those then left Brno. There wasn't the opportunity. There aren't, there weren't. In Znojmo not at all, and where should they go looking? None of my children or grandchildren keeps up traditions, only my granddaughter Magda, she's the only one.

Where and when were they born?

Ruzena: Znojmo, 1948

Vera: Znojmo, 1950

Where else did they live?

-

Their educational level?

Ruzena: graduated from medical high school in Znojmo

Vera: finished school for nursery school teachers

Their occupations?

Ruzena: Nurse

Vera: Nursery school principal

How many grandchildren do you have?

Ruzena: Hana (f) ca 1972, Karel (Kajin) (m) ca 1975

Vera: Magda (f) ca 1974, Pavlina (f) ca 1977, Petr (m) ca 1983

Father

His name?

Bence Kahan (Hebrew name: ben Zion)

Where and when was he born?

Signet Marmatiei (today Romania), ca 1873

Where else did he live?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine)

Where and when did he die?

Mukachevo, 1939

What sort of education did he have?

Public school

What sort of work did he do?

Businessman

How religious was he?

My father observed Jewish traditions, he celebrated everything, attended synagogue, or more often went to prayer halls. He attended both morning and evening prayers, that was the custom in Mukachevo. The kashrut, as it's called, was observed at home. We had three sets of dishes. The Passover ones were kept up in the attic, and always at Easter it had to be brought down, they were decorated ceramic ones. Seder was always a big celebration, because the family would gather. You know, the kids that had already gone out into the wide world would return. That was always nice. Even Saturday was observed, and strictly. They wouldn't cook, wouldn't do anything.

What was his mother tongue?

Hungarian, Yiddish

Army service: which army and what years?

Austro-Hungarian KuK (Imperial and Royal) army in WWI, Italian front

Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

Name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
(f)	Died in Auschwitz (today Poland)	No information	Married (no further information on husband)	Several children (No further information)	Religious

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandfather

Your paternal grandfather's name?

? Kahan

Where and when was he born?

No information

Where else did he live?

Signet Marmatiei (today Romania)

Where and when did he die?

No information

What sort of education did he have?

Finished cheder

What sort of work did he do?

No information

How religious was he?

Orthodox

What was his mother tongue?

Probably Yiddish

Army service: which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Paternal grandmother

Your paternal grandmother's name?

Hana Kahan (nee ?)

Where and when was she born?

No information

Where else did she live?

Signet Marmatiei (today Romania)

Where and when did she die?

No information

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

Orthodox

What was her mother tongue?

Probably Yiddish

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

Mother

Her name?

Miriam Kahan (nee Berger)

Where and when was she born?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine), ca 1882

Where else did she live?

-

Where and when did she die?

Auschwitz (today Poland), 1944

What sort of education did she have?

Basic

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

My mother of course lived in a religious fashion, she observed the kashrut, everything.

What was her mother tongue?

Hungarian

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of birth/death	occupation	biographical data and origins of spouse	biographical data of children	describe how religious they were
? Mermelstein (nee Berger) (f)	No information	No information	Her husband was a teacher	They had five or seven children. One of their sons lives in Uzhorod (today Ukraine), and one daughter lives in Israel. The other siblings died during the Holocaust.	religious
Taube (f) ? (nee Berger)	No information	No information	No information	One daughter	religious
Herbert Berger (m)	Lived in USA	No information	No information	Around eight children	religious
? (f)	No information	No information	No information	A son	religious

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Concentration camp: Auschwitz (today Poland), died there in 1944

Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name?

? Berger

Where and when was he born?

Probably Mukachevo (today Ukraine), date unknown

Where else did he live?

-

Where and when did he die?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine), date unknown

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

No information

How religious was he?

All my grandparents definitely lived in a religious manner; there people observed everything. People attended synagogue, observed Sabbath, holidays, everything. I'm sure they were no exception.

What was his mother tongue?

Yiddish or Hungarian

Army service: which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name?

? Berger (nee Hochman)

Where and when was she born?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine), date unknown

Where else did she live?

-

Where and when did she die?

Mukachevo (today Ukraine), 1933

What sort of education did she have?

Basic

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

All my grandparents definitely lived in a religious manner; there people observed everything. People attended synagogue, observed Sabbath, holidays, everything. I'm sure they were no exception.

What was her mother tongue?

Yiddish or Hungarian

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before