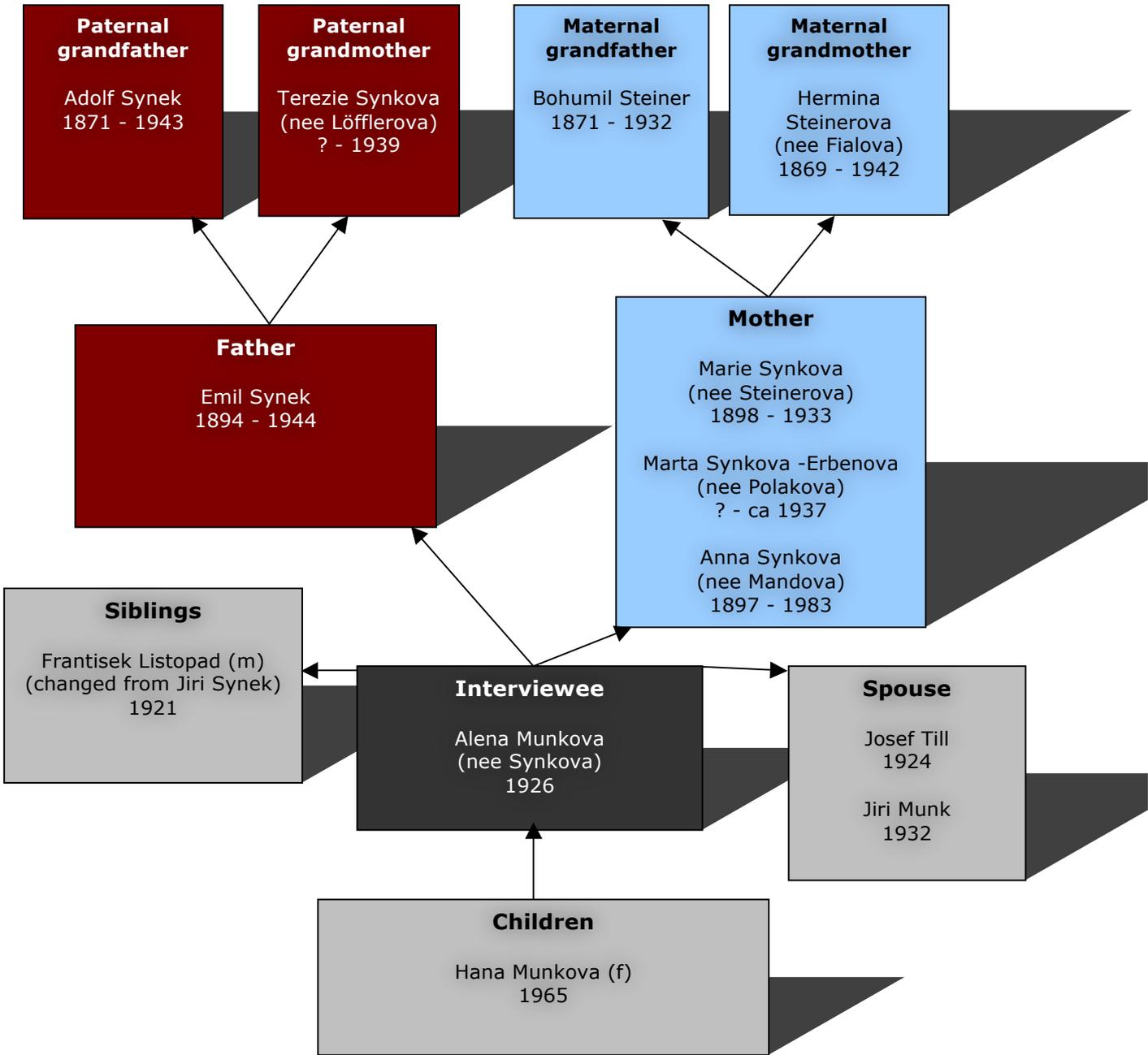


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Alena Munkova (formerly Tillova) (nee Synkova)

Where and when were you born?

Prague, 24th September 1926

Where else did you live?

-

Your educational level?

University of Political and Social Studies in Prague, Faculty of Journalism, 1946-1949

What sort of work do/did you do?

Barrandov, feature film, instructor, 1950-1952

Nase Vojsko publishers, editor, 1953-1954

Central Czech Film Library, editor, 1954

Press department of the Central Film Lending Library, editor, 1955-1963

Animated and puppet film dramaturgy, 1963-present day

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

My father, who was very liberal, had me 'liberated' from religious education, because he wanted, as he later told me, me to one day pick my faith myself. But in my view it was a mistake, because it should be part of an education. I remember that it was kept a secret from my grandpa. That he would apparently have been upset, so there apparently was some sort of Jewish tradition in the family. His two sons, both my father and my uncle Karel, married Christian women. In my uncle's case it was already his first wife, in my father's it was his second and third.

What is your mother tongue?

Czech

What other languages do you speak?

German, English, a little bit of French, Russian

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

-

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Ghetto: Terezin, 1942-1945

What did you do after the Holocaust?

Barrandov, feature film, instructor, 1950-1952

Naše Vojsko publishers, editor, 1953-1954

Central Czech Film Library, editor, 1954

Press department of the Central Film Lending Library, editor, 1955-1963

Animated and puppet film dramaturgy, 1963-present day

Siblings

Their names

Frantisek Listopad (changed from: Jiri Synek) (m)

Where and when were they born?

Prague, 26th November 1921

What is their mother tongue?

Czech

Their educational level?

Faculty of Philosophy, Prague

Their occupations?

Poet, writer of prose, essayist, theater and television director, promoter of Czech literature and culture abroad, regarded as an expert on Central European thought and cultural output.

Where do/did they live?

Lisbon (Portugal)

Where else did they live?

Paris (France)

Do they have children?

Six of their own and two stepchildren by marriage

Spouse

Name?

Josef Till

Jiri Munk

Where and when was he/she born?

Josef: Prerov, 1924

Jiri: Brandys nad Labem, 2nd November 1932

Where else did he/she live?

Josef: Prague

Jiri: Prague

Is he/she Jewish?

Josef: No

Jiri: Yes

What is his/her mother tongue?

Josef: Czech

Jiri: Czech

His/her educational level?

Josef: university, architecture, CTU Prague

Jiri: university, architecture, CTU Prague

Occupation?

Josef: architect

Jiri: architect

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).

Josef: No information

Jiri:

- Viktor Munk (m), ?, laborer and artist, lived by Karlovy Vary, wife: Jitka Munkova (nee ?)

- Helena Kovanicova (nee Munkova), (f), clerk, husband: Rudolf Kovanic, 1 child,
Jiri Kovanic (m), granddaughter Helena Kovanicova (f) converted in 2006,
registered at the Prague Jewish community

Children

Their names?

Hana Munkova (f)

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

Yes/Yes

Where and when were they born?

Prague, 24th June 1965

Where else did they live?

-

Their educational level?

Faculty of Education, art education – Russian

Charles University, Faculty of Philosophy, Educational Psychology

Their occupations?

Freelancer, graphic artist

How many grandchildren do you have?

None

Father

His name?

Emil Synek

Where and when was he born?

Vienna (today Austria), 1st June 1894

Where else did he live?

Prague

Where and when did he die?

Auschwitz (today Poland), 1944

What sort of education did he have?

He studied to be a dental technician and lab technician, and then wrote some exams, so he was a dentist. Which means that he could pull teeth and in general do everything on the level of a dental surgeon. He was also very active on the dental panel, and lectured. He was very active in his profession, and was always educating himself and studying dozens of professional magazines. I think that he was one of the first ones here to have an X-ray machine. I remember that it was from Siemens, that company supplied it to us from Germany. But he wasn't a physician, he was a dentist. By the way, he was very popular, because he used to fix teeth for the Sparta soccer team for free.

What sort of work did he do?

Dentist

How religious was he?

He was registered at the Prague Jewish community, and was also active in the Czech-Jewish Association, where assimilated Jews that identified with the Czech nation were concentrated. They used to publish the weekly magazine 'ROZVOJ,' which my father subscribed to. But he didn't live in any religious fashion.

What was his mother tongue?

Czech

Army service: which army and what years?

My father was in the army during World War I, but he never told us where and for how long. But I do know for sure that he told us that he was in uniform in 1918, when Austrian signs were being torn down. That revolution in the year 1918 was a big experience for him. But he probably didn't spend much time in the army, because he was wounded in some way. Even though who knows how it was, because my father was quite dead set against war, he'd always been an anti-militarist.

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
Karel Synek (m)	?, 1896 - Terezin, 1943	Publisher and bookseller	Vlasta Synkova (nee Kolarova), dental lab technician Not Jewish	René Korolkov (nee Synkova) (f), 23 rd September 1927, lives in Amsterdam (Holland) Milena Kuthejlova (nee Synkova) (f), born in January 1937	As far as religion goes, Uncle Karel didn't live in any particularly Jewish fashion, and didn't celebrate the holidays at all. I don't know how deeply he felt his Jewish origins, but the Germans then made sure of reminding him of it.

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Small fortress: Terezin

Concentration camp: Auschwitz (today Poland), died there

Paternal grandfather

Your paternal grandfather's name?

Adolf Synek

Where and when was he born?

Mlada Vozice, 1st November 1871

Where else did he live?

Vienna (today Austria)

Prague

Where and when did he die?

Ghetto: Terezin, 20th January 1943

What sort of education did he have?

Grandpa definitely didn't have a university education, he learned a trade, apparently somewhere in Vienna.

What sort of work did he do?

Publisher and bookseller

How religious was he?

The Synek family was absolutely assimilated. I don't at all remember Grandpa Adolf observing any holidays. I know only that when my father had me 'liberated' from religious education, we had to keep it a secret from Grandpa. Grandpa was registered at the Prague Jewish community.

What was his mother tongue?

Czech

Army service: which army and what years?

No information

Tell me about his 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
Bohumil Sinek (m)	?, 19 th October 1872, died in Treblinka (today Poland), 1940s	No information	Hermina Sinkova (nee ?)	None	The Synek family was absolutely assimilated. I didn't associate with my grandfather's
Rudolf Synek (m)	?, 5 th January 1876 Warsaw (today Poland), probably 1943	No information	No information	Marta (f) Irma Iltisova (f), died in Israel	brothers, that's true, so I don't know whether they lived in some religious manner or not.

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Ghetto: Terezin, died there

Paternal grandmother

Your paternal grandmother's name?

Terezie Synkova (nee Löfflerova)

Where and when was she born?

Slovakia, date unknown

Where else did she live?

Vienna (today Austria)

Prague

Where and when did she die?

Place unknown, buried at the new Jewish cemetery in Prague, 1939

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Maid, after she got married, housewife

How religious was she?

She is registered at the Prague Jewish community, but whether she herself lived in some Jewish fashion, I don't know. We never talked about it at home.

What was her mother tongue?

Slovak

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

One sister (no further information)

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Died before

Mother

Her name?

Marie Synkova (nee Steinerova)

Stepmother: Marta Synkova-Erbenova (nee Polakova)

Stepmother: Anna Synkova (nee Mandova)

Where and when was she born?

Marie: Kolin, 9th August 1898

Marta: No information

Anna: Kolec u Slaneho, 9th March 1897

Where else did she live?

Marie: Prague

Marta: Prague

Anna: Prague

Where and when did she die?

Marie: Prague, 1933

Marta: Prague, ca. 1937

Anna: Prague, ca. 1983

What sort of education did she have?

Marie: I have no idea what sort of high school she had. Maybe someone used to come over and give her lessons. That would more or less correspond to their social stratum. Young girls were supposed to know how to cook, sew and play the piano.

Marta: university, medicine

Anna: seamstress by trade

What sort of work did she do?

Marie: Housewife

Marta: Dentist

Anna: Seamstress, housewife

How religious was she?

Marie: was Jewish, but I don't know to what extent she lived it, I was six when she died

Anna: Protestant, didn't attend church

Marie: Catholic, didn't attend church

What was her mother tongue?

Marie: Czech

Marta: Czech

Anna: Czech

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
Marie:					
Anna (f) Schwelbova (nee Steinerova), (previously Neumannova)	Born on 10 th December 1904 - died in the Holocaust	Housewife	3 husbands	Zdenek Neumann, born in 1924, died in the Holocaust	Not religious
Marta:					
Karla Polakova	No information	Public servant	No information	No information	No information
? Polak (m)	No information	University professor	No information	No information	No information
? Polak (m)	No information	Sugar refinery director	No information	No information	No information
Anna:					
One sister	No information	No information	No information	No information	No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Marie: died before

Marta: died before

Anna: concentration camp: Ravensbrück (today Germany), Ravensbrück sub-camp: Barth (today Germany)

If she survived, what did she do after?

Anna: seamstress

Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name?

Bohumil Steiner

Where and when was he born?

Kovansko, 1871

Where else did he live?

Kolin

Where and when did he die?

Kolin, 20th September 1932

What sort of education did he have?

No information

What sort of work did he do?

Textile merchant

How religious was he?

No information

What was his mother tongue?

Czech

Army service: which army and what years?

Austro-Hungarian Army in WWI

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

None

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name?

Hermína Steinerová (nee Fialová)

Where and when was she born?

Place unknown, 10th August 1869

Where else did she live?

Kolin

Prague

Where and when did she die?

Maly Trostinec (today Belarus), 1942

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife and helped her husband in the store

How religious was she?

No information

What was her mother tongue?

Czech

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Concentration camp: Maly Trostinec (today Belarus), died there