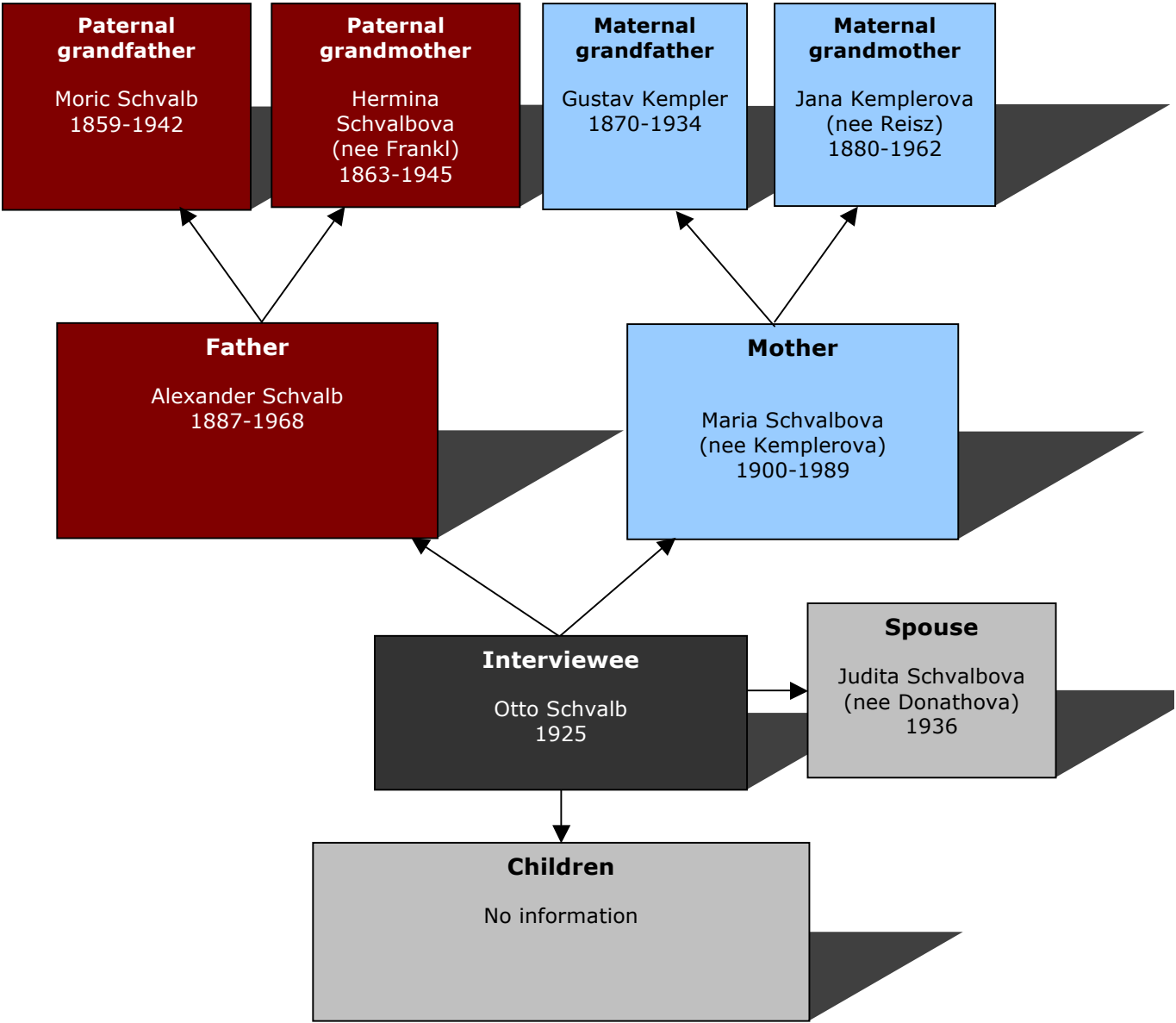


Family Tree



The interviewee and his family

Full name

Otto Schvalb (Jewish name: Michael ben Shimon)

Where and when were you born?

Presov, 1925

Where else did you live?

Prague (today Czech Republic), 1946-1952

Kosice, 1952-1954

Your educational level?

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Medicine (1946-1952)

What sort of work do/did you do?

Dentist (specializing in periodontology)

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

Before the war we observed all the high holidays at home, but for example during Sukkot we didn't put up a tent any more. I didn't have a favorite Jewish holiday as a child. I didn't even go to the synagogue very much, only when my grandfather on my father's side took me along with him. We celebrated Chanukkah. We would pray and Chanukkah supper would be prepared. We got gifts. After World War II, in the beginning I observed mainly Yom Kippur. But I only fasted until dinnertime, no later than that.

What is your mother tongue?

Slovak

What other languages do you speak?

English, German, Hungarian

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

I did my army service in the Czechoslovak Army as a dentist in the Army hospital in Kosice. I reached the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Where were you during the Holocaust?

Home: Presov, 1939–1942

Ghetto: Zilina, 1942

Hid out in: Hrinova, 1942–1944

Hid out in: Polana, 1945

What did you do after the Holocaust?

Worked as a dentist

Spouse

Name?

Judita Schvalbova (nee Donathova) (Jewish name: Jitl)

Where and when was he/she born?

Zilina, 1936

Where else did he/she live?

Presov, since 1954

Is he/she Jewish?

Yes

What is his/her mother tongue?

Slovak

His/her educational level?

Graduated from high school, and has two post-graduate diplomas.

Occupation?

Medical laboratory technician

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).

None

Children

Their names?

No information

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

-

Where and when were they born?

-

Where else did they live?

-

Their educational level?

-

Their occupations?

-

How many grandchildren do you have?

-

Father

His name?

Alexander Schvalb (Jewish name: Shimon ben Moishe)

Where and when was he born?

Presov, 1887

Where else did he live?

-

Where and when did he die?

Presov, 1968

What sort of education did he have?

University of Lorant Eotvos in Budapest (today Hungary), Faculty of Medicine

What sort of work did he do?

My father opened his own office and worked as a general practitioner. His patients came from mixed society, meaning both Jews and non-Jews. Similarly, they were people from higher circles, but also workers.

How religious was he?

My father was Orthodox, his father was also Orthodox, and in my childhood I was also Orthodox, but I was already a modern Orthodox. After World War II, though, my father became Neolog.

What was his mother tongue?

Hungarian

Army service: which army and what years?

Austro-Hungarian Kuk Army, 1914-1919

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
Eugen Schvalb (m)	Presov, 1889- Presov, 1935	Lawyer	Single	Had no children	Orthodox

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Home: Presov, 1939–1942

Ghetto: Zilina, 1942

Hid out in: Hrinova, 1942–1944

Hid out in: Polana, 1945

If he survived, what did he do after?

He worked as a doctor for the Hospital Insurance Company in Presov.

Paternal grandfather

Your paternal grandfather's name?

Moric Schvalb (Jewish name: Moishe ben Michael)

Where and when was he born?

Raslavice, 1859

Where else did he live?

Presov

Where and when did he die?

Presov, 1942

What sort of education did he have?

Finished elementary school

What sort of work did he do?

Businessman; owned a mixed-goods store in Presov

How religious was he?

My grandfather was an Orthodox Jew. Because they observed Sabbath, they couldn't work on Friday evening and Saturday. Even before the war we used to have a Christmas tree in our household, without any sort of cross of course, only with candies and chocolate. It was mainly for the girls that worked in our household. In the beginning my grandfather was against it, but then he let himself be convinced that it didn't mean anything. As children we couldn't play in the courtyard during Sabbath, otherwise my grandfather would yell at us.

What was his mother tongue?

Hungarian

Army service: which army and what years?

Most likely did not serve in the army.

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

Had a brother, who left for America before 1925 (no further information)

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Home: Presov, 1939–1942

Died of natural cause in 1942, and is buried in the local Jewish cemetery.

Paternal grandmother

Your paternal grandmother's name?

Hermína Schvalbová (nee Frankl)

Where and when was she born?

Stiavnica, 1863

Where else did she live?

Vychodná

Prešov

Where and when did she die?

Hrinová, 1945

What sort of education did she have?

Finished elementary school

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

My grandmother led a kosher household. She had separate utensils for meat and milk. The building superintendent's wife used to come and help her with the household. They didn't even turn on the lights; that was usually done for them by me. I wasn't as religious as my grandparents. My grandma also dressed according to the times. Despite being Orthodox, she never wore a wig.

What was her mother tongue?

No information

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Home: Presov, 1939–1942

Ghetto: Zilina, 1942

Hid out in: Hrinova, 1942–1945

She died immediately after the liberation of Hrinova due to wounds caused by a Russian grenade during the battle to liberate Hrinova.

Mother

Her name?

Maria Schvalbova (nee Kemplerova)

Where and when was she born?

Trstena, 1900

Where else did she live?

Hrinova

Presov

Where and when did she die?

Presov, 1989

What sort of education did she have?

Finished high school

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

My mother was more religious than I, even in the post-war period. So from my perspective she was an Orthodox Jewess.

What was her mother tongue?

Slovak

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
Jozef Kempler (m)	Trstena, 1901, Maly Trostinec (today Belarus), 1942	Doctor	Margareta Kemplerova (nee ?) ?, 1912-Maly Trostinec, 1942	Vera Kemplerova (f) ?, 1934-Maly Trostinec, 1942	No information
Mikulas Kempler (m)	Trstena, 1904-?, 1984	Merchant	Katarina Kemplerova (nee ?) ?, 1922- ?, 1982	Jozef Kempler (m) 1946 Zuzana Kemplerova (f) 1952	Neolog
? Kemplerova (f)	Trstena, 1905- Trstena, 1921	N/A	N/A	N/A	No information
Bartolomej Kempler (m)	Trstena, 1907/1976, ?	Lawyer	Viola Kemplerova (nee ?) ?, 1910- ?, 2003	John Kempler (m) 1952	No information
Martin Kempler (m)	Trstena, 1911-?, 1998	Pharmacist	Lilian Kemplerova (nee ?) ?, 1917- ?, 1999	None	No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Doma: Presov, 1939–1942

Ghetto: Zilina, 1942

Hid out in: Hrinova, 1942–1944

Hid out in: Polana, 1945

If she survived, what did she do after?

Housewife

Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name?

Gustav Kempler

Where and when was he born?

Nowy Targ (today Poland), 1870

Where else did he live?

Trstena

Where and when did he die?

Trstena, 1934

What sort of education did he have?

-

What sort of work did he do?

Grandfather Kempler owned a large textile store. He sold textiles and shoes.

How religious was he?

As far as Jewishness goes, grandpa used to go to synagogue. They had a small Jewish community with a cantor in the town, but he was more modern than my father's father, Moric Schvalb. My grandfather's store was closed on Sabbath, of course, during that time no business was done. I would say that my grandfather wasn't religious, but kept a Jewish 'form.'

What was his mother tongue?

Hungarian

Army service: which army and what years?

Austro-Hungarian Kuk Army in WWI

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust?

Died before

Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name?

Jana Kemplerova (nee Reisz)

Where and when was she born?

Liptovska Sielnica, 1880

Where else did she live?

Trstena, Sydney (Australia)

Where and when did she die?

Sydney, 1962

What sort of education did she have?

No information

What sort of work did she do?

Housewife

How religious was she?

Neolog

What was her mother tongue?

Slovak

Tell me about her brothers and sisters.

No information

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Hid in various places in Orava region, 1939-1945

If she survived what did she do after?

Housewife