

My great-great-grandpa was Baťa's head gardener

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My father and his family are from Horní Cetno near Mladá Boleslav. My mother's side of the family is from Zlín. I have decided to concentrate on the family of my mother, especially on my grandfather's grandfather Josef Mečř.

My great-great-grandpa worked as a gardener and garden architect for the globally renowned businessman Tomáš Baťa. Josef was born in 1887 and lived for almost his entire life in Zlín. Around the year 1905, he travelled to Prague where he trained to be a gardener. He studied in Starkl company that is still in business up until today. After Josef returned to Zlín, he became the employee of Tomáš Baťa Company. In 1913 Josef married Marie Stuchlíková and in 1914, when WWI started, he went and fought in Pijava in Poland. At the end of the war, he returned to Zlín and commenced working as the head gardener for the Baťa company. He was doing all the work in connection with gardening such as landscaping designs of city parks, proposals of the new plant arrangements, projections, and realizations of gardens, etc. You can still see his work on the greenery of Zlín today.

Later Josef had a disagreement with Mr. Baťa and left the company. He and his wife went to Vizovice where he started to work for baron Haupknecht also as the gardener on the premises of the Vizovice castle. During this time my great grandmother Jiřina Mečřová and her older brother Jiří were born.



Eventually, Mr. Baťa asked Josef to return to his position where Josef stayed for the remainder of his life. The whole Mečř family moved back to Zlín and started to live in the house next to the villa of Tomáš Baťa, now Tomas Bata Foundation.

This is a picture of Josef in his garden working with his bees.

Marie Mečřová died in 1946 and Josef died 18 years after her in 1964. Their daughter Jiřina married František Pekárek in 1941 and in 1949 my grandfather Jiří was born.

My grandfather Jiří married my grandmother Olga in 1974 and had two daughters, my mother Petra and her older sister Jitka.