The Shapiro Connection

Nathan Natan Shapiro, Chief Rabbi of Cracow, 1585-1633

----------- m Roza d. 1642, great-grand daughter of Moshe Eberels Altschuler of Prague & Cracow

Israel Halpern m daughter
of Krotoschin

Shmuel Helman
Chief Rabbi of Metz, d. 1764

Nathan Natan of Hildesheim m Esther Wahl,
great-grand daughter of Saul Wahl Katzenellenbogen

Nathan Nata Shapiro, Chief Rabbi of Cracow, 1585-1633

Menachem Nahum Twersky 1739 - 97 m Sarah Shapiro

Shlomo d. 1648

5th generation descendant
in direct male line

Israel Halpern m daughter of Krotoschin

Moshe of Glogau
dughter m. Moses Gelles
of Brody

David Isaac Gelis
of Glina & Brody, ca 1785-1868

Nahum Uri Gelles
of Solotwina, 1852-1934
& adherent of Israel Friedman

David Isaac Gelles -------- Efraim Fischel Gelles

Edward Gelles Joseph Gelles 1912-1941

Malka

Chava m Shalom Shakhna 1769-1808

Leah m Aryeh Leib Wertheim 1772-1854

Sheindel Shapiro m Samuel Gelles, d.1811
m Sarah, dr. of
Jacob Samson
of Shepetivka

Aaron d. 1830

Sima m Eliyahu Pinchas

David Moshe Friedman
of Czortkow, 1828-1903

Israel Friedman
of Czortkow, 1854-1933

David Isaac Gelles
of Ruzhin, 1797-1850

Yehuda Meir Shapiro
of Lublin, 1887-1934
& teacher of Joseph Gelles

Adherent of Israel Friedman

& teacher of Joseph Gelles

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Nathan Nata Shapiro of Cracow was often referred to as the *Megaleh Amukot*, the title of his cabbalistic work (Revealed Depths). His wife Roza was a Chayes–Altschuler. The famous 18th century Chasidic Rabbi Pinchas Shapiro of Koretz was their direct descendant. The latter’s only daughter Sarah Rachel Scheindel Shapiro married Samuel, son of Mordecai Gelles and grandson of Moses Gelles, a scholar of the Brody Klaus [Levi Grossman, *Shem U’She’erit*]. Another grandson and namesake of Moses Gelles (aka Levush) married a daughter of Moshe of Glogau, the eldest son of Shmuel Helman (Hillman), the Chief Rabbi of Metz [Shmuel Nach Gottlieb, *Ohalei Shem: Meir Wunder, Meorei Galicia* etc]. This younger Moses Gelles and Samuel Gelles were brothers or first cousins [see Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage*, Chapters 29 and 33].

The Chasidic dynasty founded by Israel Friedman of Ruzhin, one branch of which developed at Czortkow, was descended from Shalom Shakhna, who was a grandson of the Chasidic leader Dov Ber of Meseritz (1704-72) as well as a descendant of Meir Horowitz, (died 1743), the *Maharam of Tiktin*. Shalom Shakhna married Chava, whose ancestry included Menachem Nahum Twersky and his wife Sarah Shapiro. Menachem Nahum was descended from Nathan Nata of Hildesheim, a grandson of Nathan Nata Shapiro of Cracow. Sarah Shapiro counted Nathan Nata of Grodno, the grandfather of the *Megaleh Amukot*, among her forebears. Both Friedmans and Gelles descended from Horowitz as well as the Shapiro rabbinic lines. A grandson of the Friedman dynasty’s founder also called Israel Friedman was Admur of Czortkow but lived in Vienna from the time of the first world war until his death. My grandfather Nahum Uri Gelles and Yehudah Meir Shapira (a leading 20th century Polish Rabbi) were his close adherents. Yehuda Meir Shapira, a direct descendant of Pinchas Shapiro of Koretz, founded the prestigious Lublin Sages Yeshiva where he took my first cousin Joseph Gelles under his wing [Yehuda Meir Shapira, *Imrei Da’as*]. Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles is buried in Vienna next to Israel Friedman, his wife (and 1st cousin) Bathsheva Ruchama Friedman, and one of their sons.