Edward Gelles and Chaim Herzog, the 6th President of Israel

Chief Rabbi Shmuel Helman (Hillman) of Metz (d. 1764)

m (1) – wife (d. young)

| R. Moshe of Glogau

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| Chana (d.1805)

m Yechiel Michal Segal

ABD of Eisenstadt

(1740-1819)

| daughter

m Moses Gelles

of Brody Line

R. David Isaac Gellis

of Glina & Brody (d.1868)

R. Nahum Uri Gelles

ABD Solotwina (1852-1934)

| Dr. David Isaac Gelles

of Vienna (1883-1964)

Dr Edward Gelles

(b 1927)

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m Shmuel Landau (d.1834)

s. of R. Ezekiel Landau

Chief Rabbi of Prague

(1713-1793)

Salomon Leib Hillman (b. 1757)

Shmuel Isaac Hillman (b.ca 1780)

Shimkhel Hillman ( b.1805)

Avraham Chaim Hillman (1840-1897)

Shmuel Isaac Hillman (1868-1953)

Sarah Hillman (1898-1979)

m Yitzhak Halevi Herzog

Chief Rabbi of Israel

(1888-1959)

Chaim Herzog (1918-1997)

6th President of Israel

in office 1983-1993

m (2) – younger sister, Sarah (d. 1774)

| R. Uri Feivush (d.1771)

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| Hinde (d.1835)

m Yechiel Michal Segal

of Brody Line

R. David Isaac Gellis

of Glina & Brody (d.1868)

R. Nahum Uri Gelles

ABD Solotwina (1852-1934)

| Dr. David Isaac Gelles

of Vienna (1883-1964)

Dr Edward Gelles

(b 1927)
Edward Gelles and the 5th President of Israel, Yitzchak Navon

There is a Gelles family connection by marriage to Yitzchak Navon, the 5th President of Israel. My father’s eldest sister Bertha emigrated from Galicia to America in 1910 and married Nathan Resnik. whose half brother Eliezer settled in Israel and had a daughter Ofira, a Miss Israel beauty Queen and an academically qualified psychologist. She became Navon’s wife and they had two children. Some of Navon’s Sephardic forebears settled in Jerusalem in the 17th century The Baruch Mizrachi family came from Spain via the Ottoman Empire. On his mother’s side Navon is descended from a famous kabbalist, Rabbi Haim ben Attar, whose family came from Morocco.

Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles

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<tr>
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<th>Asher Resnik</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. David Gelles</td>
<td>Nathan Resnik</td>
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<td>Vienna, 1883-1964</td>
<td>New York, 1888-1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>advocate</td>
<td>bookstore owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Edward Gelles</td>
<td>Eliezer Resnikov</td>
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<tr>
<td>London, b 1927</td>
<td>1903-1944, Israel</td>
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<td>Ofira Resnikov</td>
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<td>Tel Aviv, 1936-1993</td>
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<td>m 1963</td>
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<td>Yitzchak Navon</td>
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<td>b Jerusalem 1921</td>
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See Edward Gelles “An Ancient Lineage”
Chapter 27, p, 192, Note 3
YouTube video on Yitzhak Navon contains a rare photo of the President with his wife Ofira and their children

5th President of Israel
in office 1978-1983
Edward Gelles and the 2nd President of Israel, Yitzchak ben Zvi

Zvi Shimshi and his son Yitzhak Ben-Zvi were prominent in the history of the modern Zionist movement from the 1890’s to the founding of the state of Israel and beyond. Yitzhak Ben-Zvi (1884-1963) was among the signatories of the declaration of independence in 1948 and succeeded the first President of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, in 1952 as the State’s second President (*in office 1952-1963*).

Our common ancestors are the physician Jechiel Michel Epstein (died 1632) and his wife Bella, the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Yaffe of Prague, known as the Levush (1530-1612). Yitzhak Ben-Zvi is descended from a son of this couple via a line of Epstein rabbis, while I have a probable line of descent from a daughter via a line of Heilprin (Halpern) rabbis. Jechiel Michel Epstein goes back to Rabbi Solomon Luria of Lublin (died 1572) and then to Jehiel Luria, the Chief Rabbi of Brest-Litovsk (died circa 1470). The latter is also the ancestor of the Katzenellenbogen rabbis of Padua and Venice, whose scion was Saul ben Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen, known as Saul Wahl (1545-1617).


Descent of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi – see chart inside front cover


Descent from Jechiel Michel Epstein and Bella Yaffe to my grandmother Esther Weinstein – chart on p. 59.

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