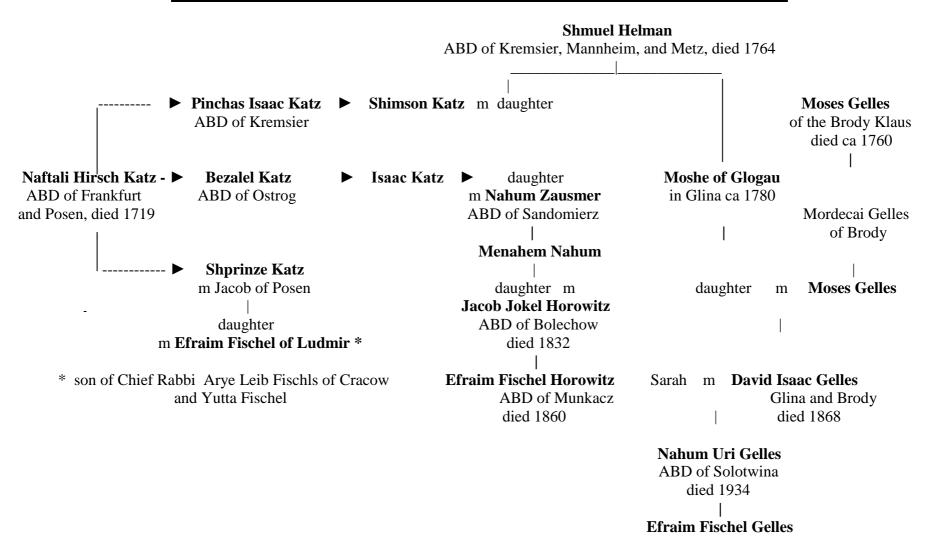
Naftali Hirsch Katz of Frankfurt and Posen, Shmuel Helman of Metz, and Gelles of Brody



Footnotes

Naftali Hirsch Katz was a member of an ancient and distinguished sacerdotal family (Katz is an acronym of Kohen Zedek = righteous priest). He was a great-grandson of Isaac ben Samson Katz who married a daughter of Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague. Naftali Hirsch occupied a number of important posts. He was ABD (Av Beth Din) of Frankfurt am Main and of Posen. His children included Shprintze Katz who married Jacob Ashkenazi-Katzenellenbogen of Posen and whose daughter was the wife of Efraim Fischel of Ludmir, son of Chief Rabbi Aryeh Leib Fischls of Cracow (died 1671) and grandson of Efraim Fischel of Lvov, Rabbi of Lukow (died 1653). This Fischel line goes back to Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt who came to Cracow via Prague in the mid 15th century.

Shmuel Helman had a very long and distinguished career that took him from his studies in Prague under Abraham Broda, to the Chief Rabbinates of Kremsier, Mannheim, and Metz and to a position of pan-European influence. His daughters Jached, Beila, and Deborah married respectively Eliezer Katzenellenbogen, ABD of Bamberg and Hagenau, Judah Leib Fraenkel, the son of Chief Rabbi David Mirels Fraenkel of Berlin, and Isaac Rapaport, son of Israel Ashkenazi, ABD of Offenbach and Hanau.

Shmuel Helman's younger son Rabbi Uri Feivush was the father-in-law of Shmuel Landau, a son of the great Chief Rabbi of Prague, Ezekiel Landau (died 1793). Helman's eldest son, Moshe of Glogau was the father-in-law of Yechiel Michel Segal, ABD of Eisenstadt, and of others including Moses Gelles, grandson of the eponymous scholar of the Brody Klaus (E. Gelles, An Ancient Lineage, Vallentine Mitchell, London 2006, chapter 33). Shmuel Helman was already a widower when he studied at Prague in 1709. He was supported by his wealthy father-in-law from Glogau and ultimately married a sister of his late wife (Phineas Katzenellenbogen, Yesh Manhilin, Jerusalem 1984). The marriage of Helman's daughter to Shimson, son of Rabbi Pinchas Isaac ben Naftali Hirsch Katz of Kremsier has now come to light (private communication from Rabbi Dov Weber of New York referring to a Judaica auction catalogue published in 1998) It appears to date from the time of Helman's association with Kremsier in Moravia and this daughter probably came from his first marriage for which documentation has been lacking. A line of descent from Naftali Hirsch's son Bezalel Katz of Ostrog ultimately unites with a Horowitz line descended from Isaiah Katz of Brody, who was a brother of Naftali Hirsch Katz.