

Facets of my Family History

Edward Gelles



Edward Gelles (in 1959)
his father Dr. David Gelles (in 1927)
and his mother Regina Gelles nee Griffel with his brother Ludwig (in 1920's)



Edward Gelles (in 2011)

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Papers of Edward Gelles

Introduction

I have spent much of the past twenty years on the study of my family background and the time has now come to look back on what I have discovered - about my ancestors, who they were, when, how and where they lived , and why they migrated for centuries across our continent and beyond.

I wondered what I had learned about myself from my genetic and cultural inheritance and how far the story of my ancestors reflects in microcosm the history of European Jewry.

From early childhood in Vienna I was encouraged to read about the Legends of the Jews and the Myths of the Greeks and Romans as well as a wide range of European history. With this background knowledge of history, of a foreign language or two, and some essential Jewish onomastics I felt that I could embark on a genealogical study using traditional methodology. Some years later genetic genealogy began to provide support of a new and increasingly useful research tool.

My first book “An Ancient Lineage : European roots of a Jewish family : Gelles, Griffel, Wahl, Chajes, Safier, Loew, Taube “ (Vallentine Mitchell, 2006) presented a detailed genealogy for a few generations of my paternal Gelles and maternal Griffel families. The book contains notes on a very large amount of research material and an extensive bibliography. The Wahl-Katzenellenbogen and Chajes are ancient and distinguished families to which my maternal grandmother and great-grandmother belonged, It soon became apparent that my Gelles line was also linked with leading rabbinic families, including the Shapiro, Jaffe, and Horowitz. And some of these had connections with both the paternal and maternal sides of my family.

My continued work was embodied in four paperbacks including “Family Connections:”Gelles– Shapiro–Friedman “ (Shaker Publishing 2009) describing the Gelles connection with the Chasidic Friedman dynasty, “Ephemeral & Eternal– a brief life of Josef Gelles” (do. 2010) which reconstructs the life of a lost cousin from contemporary family postcards and tombstone inscriptions, and “ Meeting my Ancestors” (do. 2011) which gives an account of an early use of Y-DNA tests to confirm a common ancestor of two supposed cousins.

My book “ The Jewish Journey - A Passage through European History” (I.B. Tauris - Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016) has a series of chapters describing important connections and episodes of my family’s millennial journey.

Most of my more recent work has been recorded in “The Papers of Edward Gelles” on the web site of Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts.

I can take my largely Jewish ancestry back more than two thousand years to the eastern Mediterranean and I follow at least in outline the complex pattern of migrations across Europe with numerous changes of direction, of social integration and ethnic admixture, alternating with periods of persecution and concomitant religious conversion, isolation in endogamous communities, or expulsions.

I started with the more detailed inter-disciplinary study of the past four or five hundred years for which much primary documentation is still available. In this period we lived mainly in central and eastern Europe and could be called *Ashkenazi* Jews but, as I soon found, several of my closest families had *Sephardic* roots, and there are indications of some *Mizrachi* connections from ancient times. I am descended from a remarkable number of rabbis of the most ancient and distinguished families but the importance of some noteworthy *Conversos* in our history should not be overlooked.

My parents were born in Austrian Galicia and came to Vienna just before the first world war. As can be seen from the first attached chart, my Gelles rabbinical line was interwoven with the ancient Shapiro rabbis, going back to Nathan Nata Shapiro, the Chief Rabbi of Grodno, and his eponymous grandson, the Chief Rabbi of Cracow.

Mordecai Jaffe (aka “Levush”) the Chief Rabbi of Prague, Grodno, and Posen, had a descendant Moses called Menachem Levush who married a daughter of Rabbi Shmuel Gelles and adopted his father-in-law’s name - thus becoming known as Moses Gelles of the Brody Klaus and the progenitor of a “Gelles-Levush” line.

The following is a short list of other rabbinic ancestors in the past 500 years-

I am a direct 6th generation descendant of the above-mentioned Moses Gelles of Brody. I am also a 6th generation from Rabbi Shmuel Helman, the Chief Rabbi of Mannheim and Metz, and a 7th generation from Isaac Horowitz, Chief Rabbi

of Brody, Glogau, and Hamburg (who was a direct descendant of Pinchas Halevi Horowitz, the President of the Four Lands Council, whose wife was the sister of Chief Rabbi Moses Isserles of Cracow. Their daughter Hinde Horowitz married Meir Wahl, who was the eldest son of Saul Wahl. I am a 10th generation descendant of the afore-mentioned Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro of Grodno, and of Uri Feivush ben David, the Chief Rabbi of Vilna and *Nasi* (Head) of the Ashkenazi community in Jerusalem (where he died ca. 1657). I am also 10th generation descendant of Rabbi Mordecai Heilprin (Halpern) of Berdichev and Solotwina, a 14th generation descendant of Saul Wahl and 15th generation from Saul Wahl's father, Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen of Venice (who married Abigail Jaffe), and also 15th generation from Isaac ben Abraham Chayes, the Chief Rabbi of Prague and brother-in-law of Rabbi Judah Loew.

Going back in time to the middle ages we can make connections to Portugal and to Spain before and after the period of the Inquisitions, notably to the Benveniste, their connections in south western France such as the Kalonymos of Narbonne, and descendant lines.

Gil or Gelis apart, my closest connections with ancestors of Iberian origins include the Jaffe, Chayes, and Horowitz. The Jaffe of Prague came from Spain via Italy. Chayes from Portugal moved to Provence, to Lithuania, then to Brody in Galicia, whence a branch went to Florence, Livorno and elsewhere in Italy, and on to Vienna and beyond. From Spain came some Levites (Halevi) whose journey took them to Bohemia where they took the family name of Horowitz from their estate at Horovice near Prague, whence they later spread far and wide.

Migrations from the Iberian peninsula took us north to the Low countries and east to the Ottoman Empire. From the former some proceeded to England and overseas while others moved to Germany and further into central Europe. Of those who went east to Anatolia, Greece and the Greek islands some turned back later to Italy and the North African littoral.

Episodes in this résumé are taken from the time of my childhood in the inter-war period of the 20th century back to the 15th century, and conclude with stories from earlier times when a measure of circumstantial evidence must sometimes be allowed to support sparser primary documentation.

Edward Gelles – Ancestral Background

ABD = Head of Rabbinical Court / Chief Rabbi
 R. = Rabbi, K. = Katzenellenbogen,
 Itzig = Jaffe branch in Berlin (see *Mendelssohn family chart*)

Samuel J Katzenellenbogen

ABD of Padua & Venice

m Abigail **Jaffe**

Saul **Wahl** 1545 -1617

Meir **Wahl** *ABD of Brest d. 1631*

m Hinde **Horowitz**

Moses K. *ABD of Chelm*
 m Sarah (Kloisner of Posen)

Saul K. *ABD of Pinczow d. 1691*
 m Yente, dr of Jacob Shor

Moses K. *ABD Schwabach d. 1733*
 m dr of Eliezer Heilprin of Fuerth

Eliezer K. *ABD Hagenau & Bamberg d. 1771*
 m Yached, dr of Shmuel Helman of Metz

Uri Feivush ben David
ABD of Vilna & Nasi in Jerusalem d. 1657

Meir of Horodycze

Isaac of Siematycze

R. Shmuel **Gelles**

m daughter

Joel Sirkes d 1640
ABD of Cracow
 (2nd cousin of Mordecai **Jaffe**)

descent to
 Eliezer Griffel m
Nadworna d 1918

David M Griffel m
d 1941

Isaac Chayes d.1616
ABD of Prague

descent to
 Sarah M Chajes
d. 1940/

Chawa **Wahl**
d. 1941

Mordecai Jaffe (aka "Levush")
ABD of Prague, Grodno & Posen d. 1612

Itzig **Jaffe** Levush

Moses Menachem Levush
 aka Moses **Gelles**
of the Brody Klaus

Mordecai **Gelles** of Brody

R. Zvi Aryeh Weinstein
ABD of Sopotwina d. 1884
 m Gittel **Horowitz**

Esther Weinstein
d 1907

Nathan Nata Shapiro
ABD of Grodno d. 1577

Solomon Shapiro
 Nathan Nata Shapiro
ABD of Cracow d. 1633
 Roza Avarles

Lifsha Shapiro
 m Israel Halpern of *Krotoschin*

Shmuel Helman
ABD of Metz d. 1764

R. Moshe of Glogau

daughter m R. Moses **Gelles**

R. David I. **Gelles**
d. Brody 1868
 m Sarah **Horowitz**

Nahum Uri **Gelles**
ABD of Sopotwina d 1934

Dr David Itzig **Gelles**
of Vienna d. 1964

David Gans *cousin of* Nathan Nata Shapiro
of Prague d. 1613

Shlomo Shapiro
 Isaac Jechiel Michael
 Moshe of *Shklov*
 Pinchas
 Abraham Abba
of Shklov

R. Pinchas Shapiro
of Koretz d. 1791

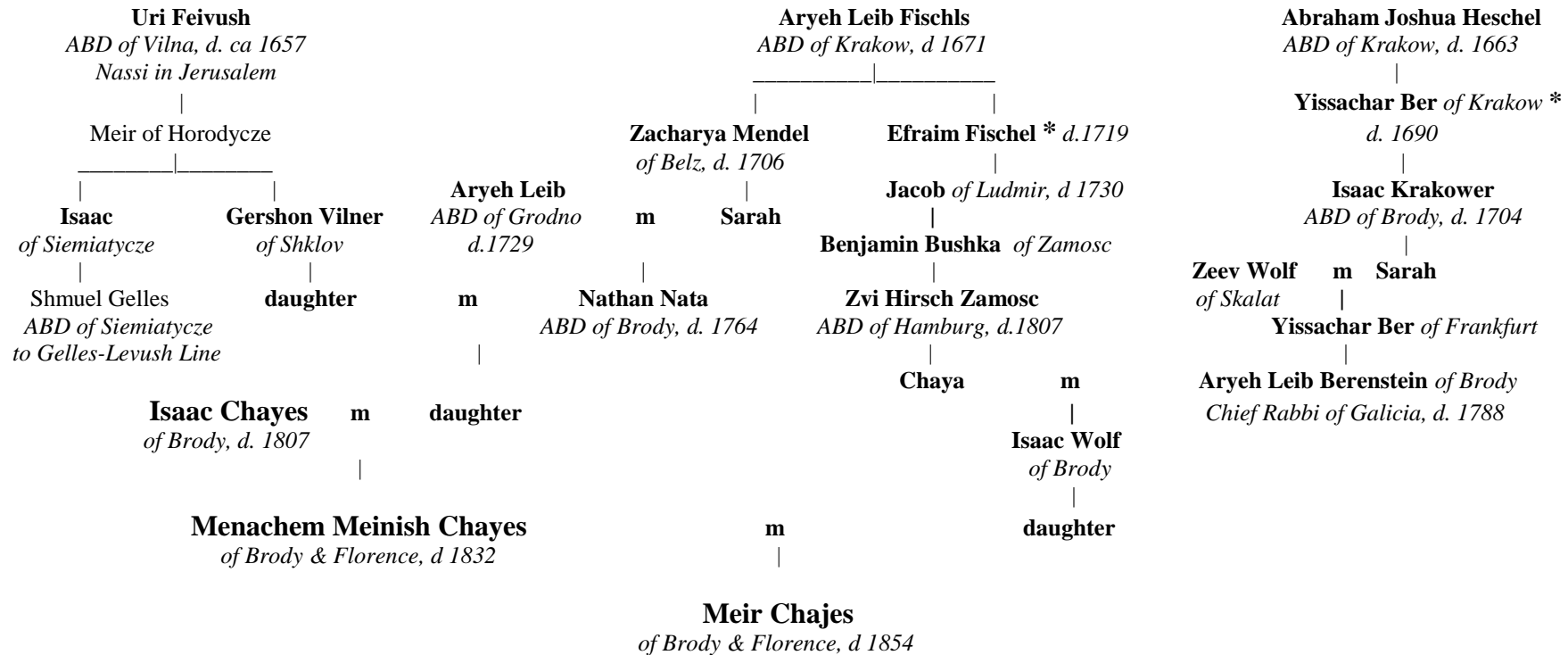
his only daughter
 m R. Shmuel **Gelles**
d. 1811

-----m-----
 Regina Griffel
London d. 1954
 Edward **Gelles**

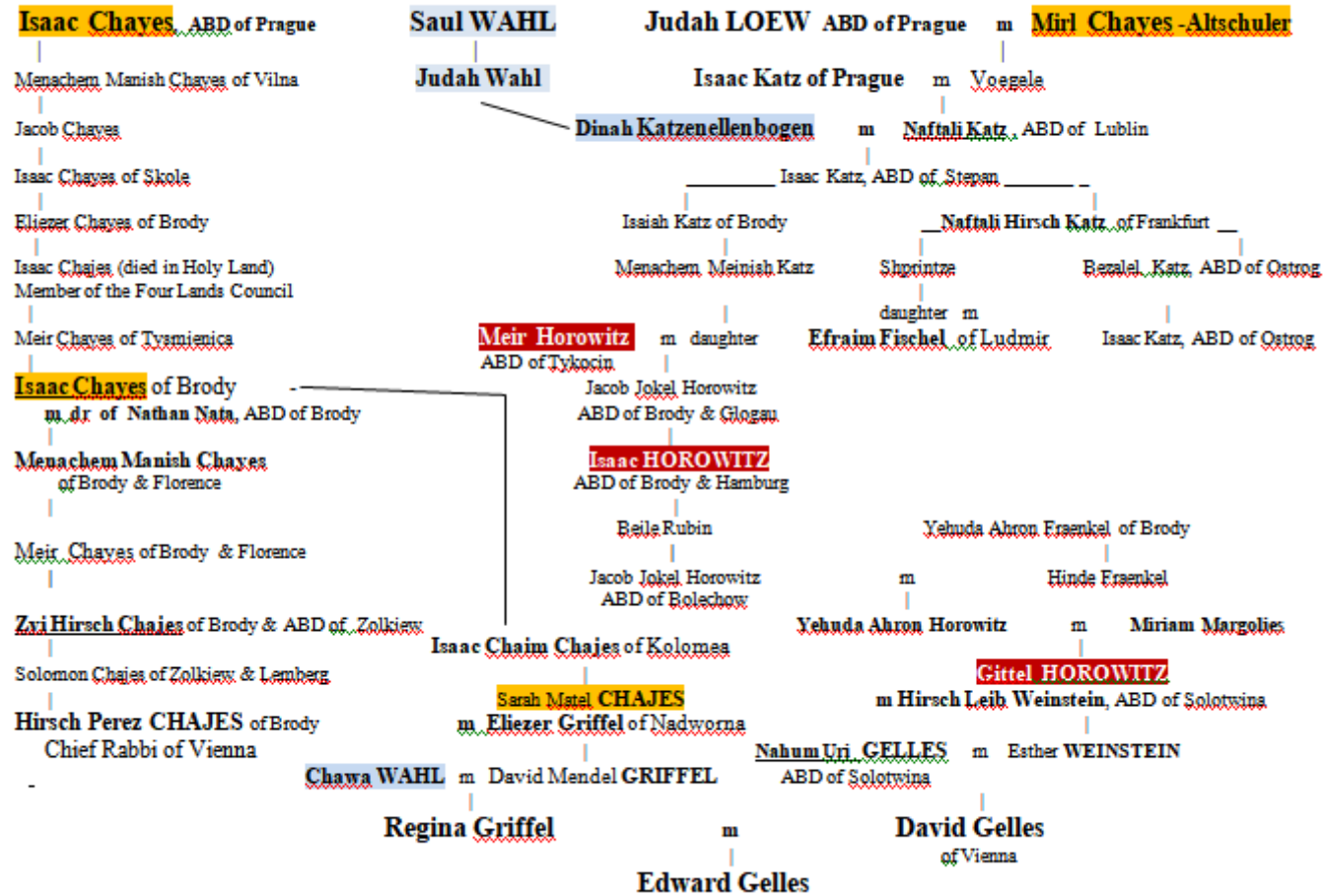
Chayes Family Connections

Uri Feivush was a son of David, Chief Rabbi of Vilna. Aryeh Leib (ben Zacharya Mendel Hanavi) Klausner was descended from the family of Judah Löw of Prague. After his marriage to Jutta, daughter of Efraim Fischel of Lvov (died 1653) he was known as Aryeh Leib Fischls. The Fischel line goes back to 15th century Frankfurt. Efraim ben Aryeh Leib Fischel of Ludmir married a granddaughter of Naftali Hirsch Katz of Frankfurt, a descendant of Judah Löw and Mirl Altschular. Abraham Joshua Heschel, scion of the Katzenellenbogen line from Padua and Venice, and Aryeh Leib Fischls were Chief Rabbis of Krakow.

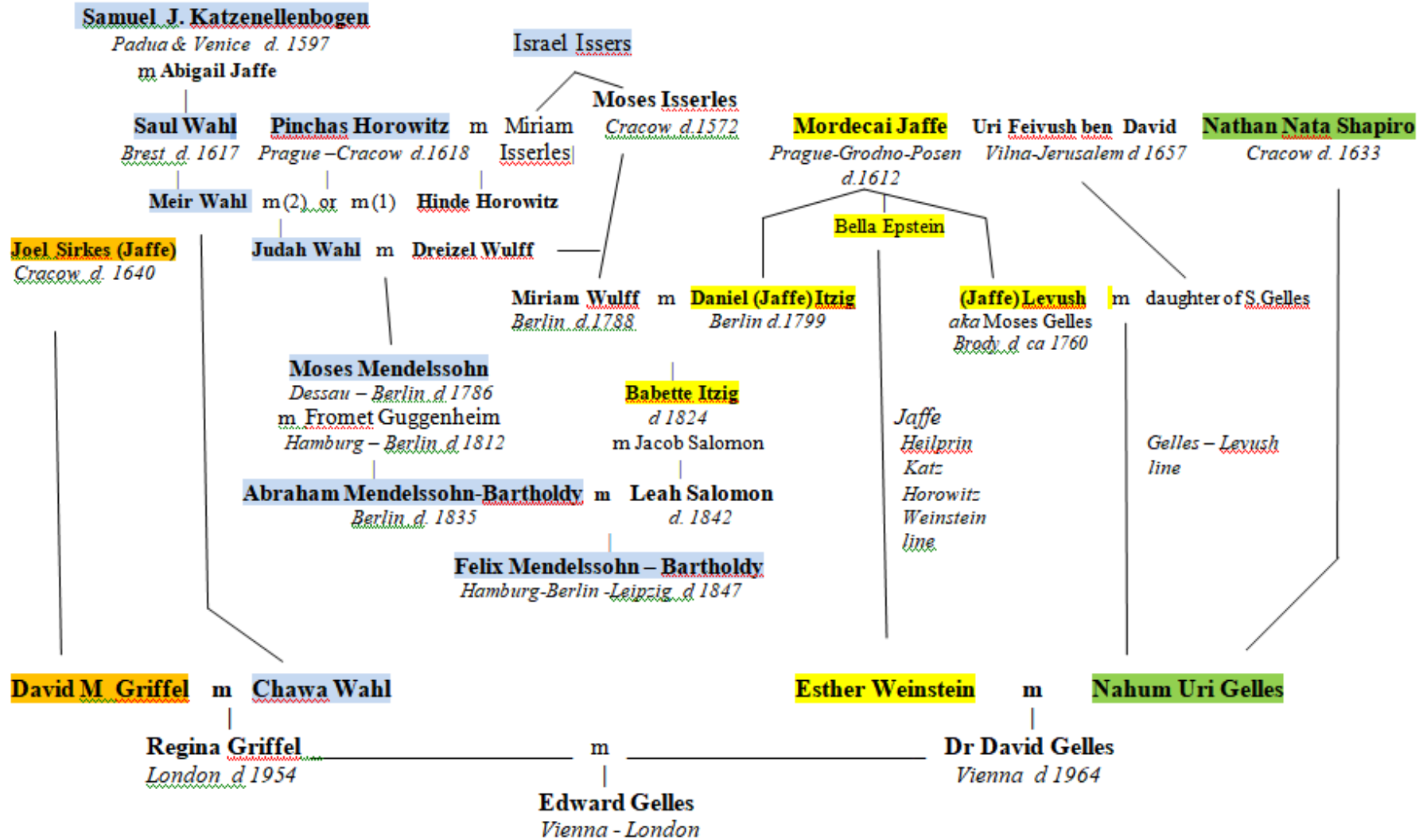
* Their sons, Yissachar Ber of Krakow and Efraim Fischel of Ludmir, were Presidents of the Council of the Four Lands



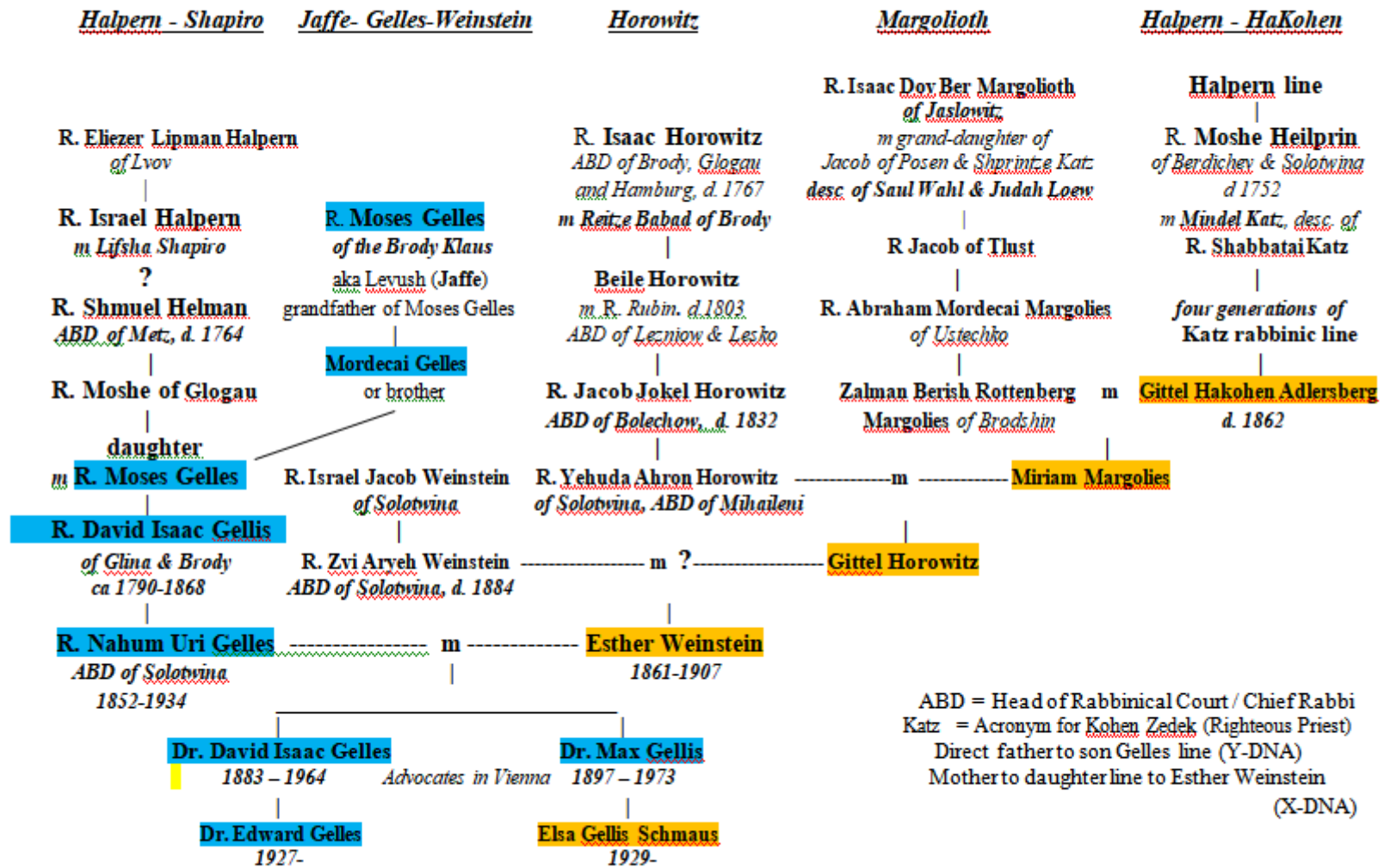
Descent of Edward Gelles from Rabbis Judah Loew and Isaac Chaves of Prague



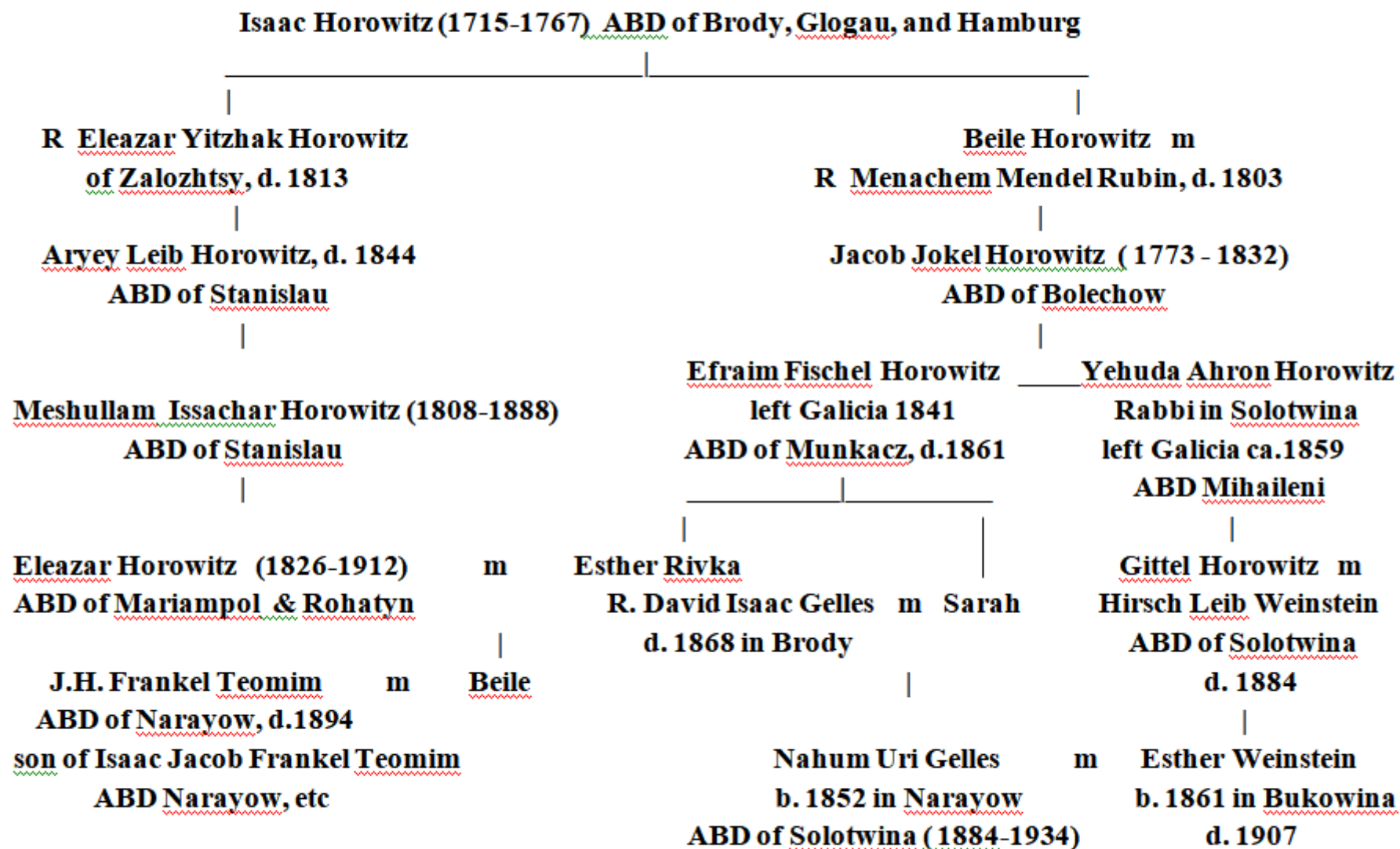
Ancestral Links of Edward Gelles and the Mendelssohns



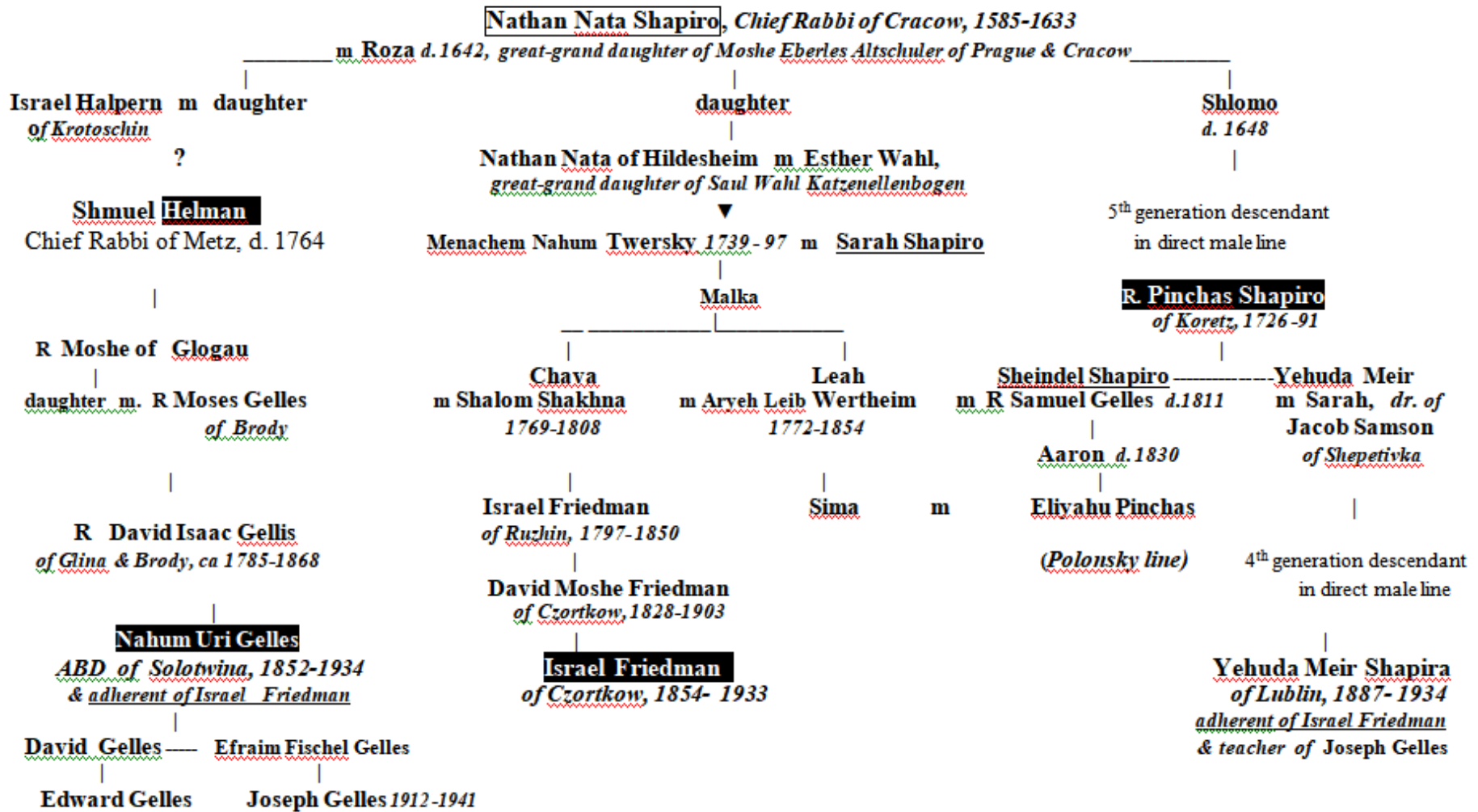
Paternal Ancestry of Edward Gelles



GELLES – HOROWITZ CONNECTIONS



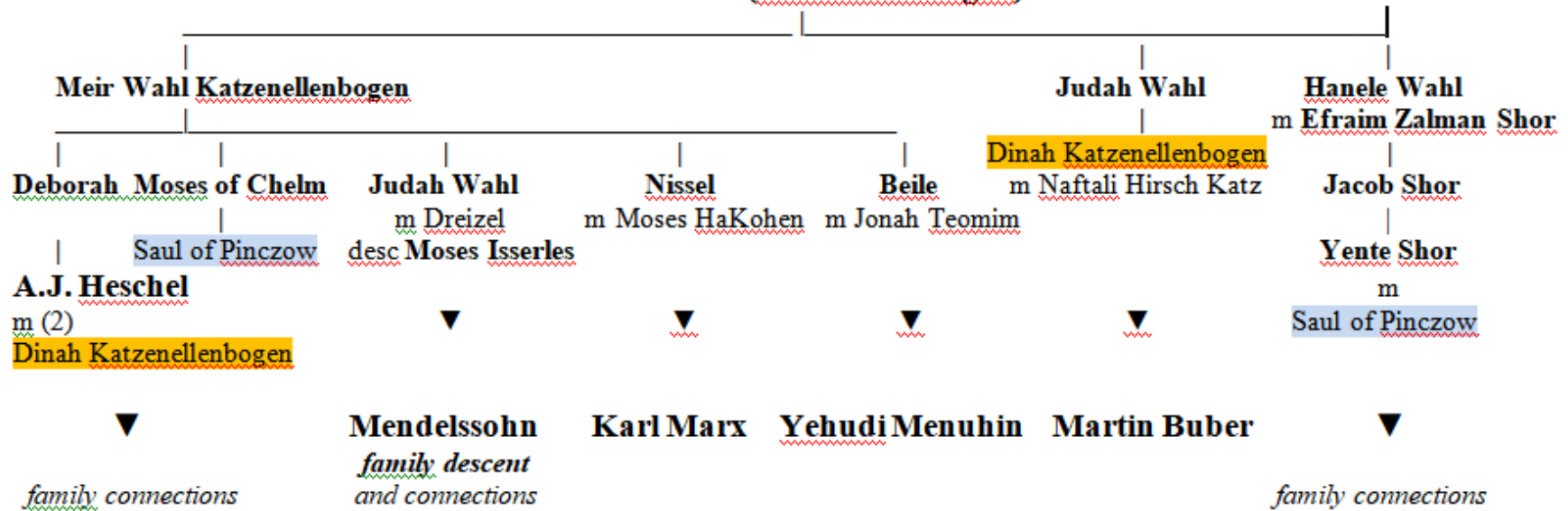
The Shapiro Connection of Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and the Chasidic Grand Rabbi Israel Friedman of Czortkow



Some lines of descent from Saul Wahl

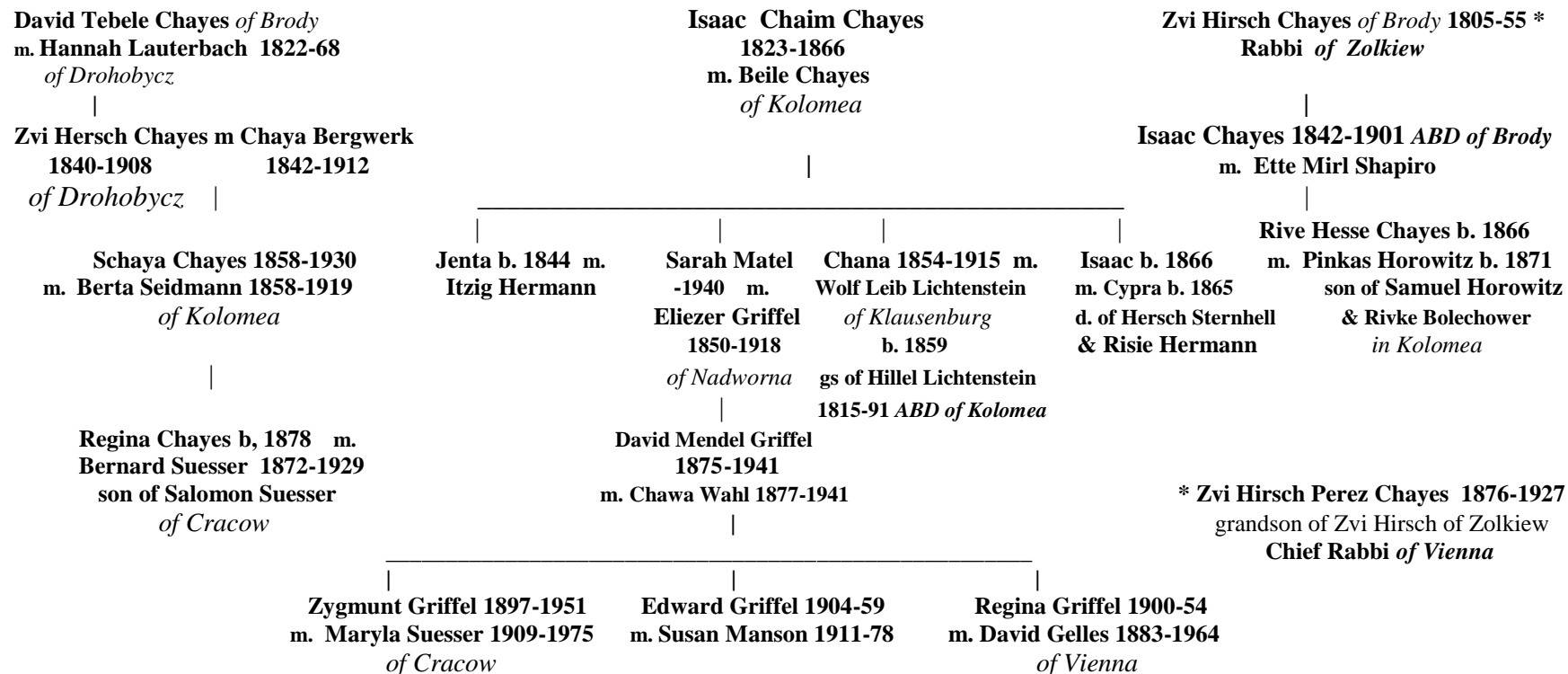
Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen of Padua and Venice
 m. **Abigail Jaffe**

Saul Wahl (Katzenellenbogen)



Chayes Family Connections II

*The Chayes family spread from their base in Brody to other Galician towns and they also flourished in Tuscany. Meir Chayes was a merchant banker in Brody and Florence and one of his sons was the famous Rabbi Zvi Hirsch of Zolkiew. David Tebele of Drohobycz may have been the latter's brother. Numerous family members in Kolomea included my great-great-grandfather Isaac Chaim Chayes
Two Chayes branches are connected by marriages with the Suesser family of Cracow.*



1 My childhood in Vienna 1927-1938

Some notes about my childhood in Vienna and adolescence in London and Oxford may explain why I embarked on a study of my family history about half a century later and why I have devoted the last twenty years to this study to the detriment of other work. The purpose in writing these notes is at least in part to attain self-knowledge through re-awakening of forgotten ancestral links.

I was born in Vienna in 1927 as the second son of David Gelles and Regina Griffel. Both my parents came from ultra-orthodox Jewish families in Austrian Galicia. My father's forebears were rabbis, while my mother's family had extensive business interests. By the time of their marriage in 1921 at the main synagogue in Vienna David and Regina had become largely assimilated. They brought up their children in the secular mainstream of the time.

My father was a child of the enlightenment which had come late to the far distant corner of the Austrian Empire. In his youth his heroes would have included Rousseau and Moses Mendelssohn. However, he did not forget the time he spent at the Munkacz yeshivah in Hungary and in later days he could still lecture on Rashi or Maimonides to Jewish clubs and societies in which he played an active role. The break with his parents and their ultra-orthodox background came at a turning point in European history with the upsurge of nationalist feelings, of which Russian pogroms and the foundation of modern Zionism were two manifestations.

My father became a Zionist while he was a law student in Czernowitz and remained active in the movement until he died. He completed his studies in Vienna where he became *Doctor Juris* and Advocate at the time of the first world war. In inter-war Austrian and Jewish politics he adhered to a liberal-Zionist line. While he had a completely modern outlook some of the deepest family traditions were preserved in him, in some of his siblings, and in me. I refer to the millennial rabbinic pre-occupation with ethics, law, and education. His forefathers, as rabbis, were teachers and judges. So in the secular world he took to the law as his profession and made the education of his children one of his priorities. I included a short account of his life in my book "Family Connections: Gelles – Shapiro – Friedman" (Shaker Publishers, 2009).

My elder brother and I benefited from a happy and comfortable home background and from our father's strong interest in education, with Latin and German classics replacing study of the Talmud. I enjoyed the best schooling Vienna had to offer. I was enrolled at the age of five years at the *Lehrer - Bildungsanstalt* (teachers training college) and then I had just one year at the top *Real Gymnasium* (R.G.1) before we left Austria. Regular Sunday museum visits laid the foundations for my later interests in the fine and applied arts. I had private tutors for Hebrew and music. I regret that I have forgotten most of the former and showed little talent for the latter.

My main interests were in geography, history, and current affairs. I remember following the Spanish Civil war on the maps of my modern and historical atlases. I was given books on Jewish history and culture, but at the time I took more interest in German literature and poetry. To this day I know most poems of Heine and Schiller by heart.

Our close connections included the families of my paternal uncle Max and aunt Lotte, and on my mother's side, her brothers Zygmunt and Edward and their families. The latter lived in Poland but were well travelled cosmopolitan business people who often visited us in Vienna, As far as the children were concerned, contact with estranged grandparents was kept to a minimum.

My mother did take me to Poland once at the invitation of my grandmother Chawa Wahl. I never met my maternal grandfather. The old Rabbi Gelles came to our apartment shortly before his death in 1934 to give us his blessing. That was the only occasion I saw him. My grandparents felt that my parents had broken the sacred millennial chain. The latter, on the other hand, were intent on shielding their children from the potent ancestral pull of the old religion. On the rare occasions that my father mentioned family antecedents I heard that the Gelles rabbis hailed from Brody in Galicia and that there was a connection with the Friedman Chasidic Grand Rabbis of Czortkow. Sixty years later I went into these connections in my book, "An Ancient Lineage : European Roots of a Jewish Family (Vallentine Mitchell, London, 2006).

My mother now and again said to me that we had "blue blood", referring to her mother's descent from Saul Wahl, who according to Jewish legend briefly exercised royal power during a Polish 16th century interregnum.

I had read in the German edition of the well-regarded “History of the Jewish People” by Simon Dubnow of “the bizarre whim” of the Polish Szlachta who are supposed to have chosen Saul Wahl to be *Rex pro tempore* before the Swedish King Sigismund Vasa ascended the Polish throne as Zygmunt III. I did not take this story seriously during my childhood days, but it became one of my starting points for research many decades later. My latest thoughts on this legend are outlined in “The Jewish Journey : a Passage through European History” (Bloomsbury, published 2016).

Pre-WW2 Vienna had a very large Jewish community with a wide spectrum of allegiance in religious and political matters. My father took an active interest in community affairs and in national politics, as well as his Zionist clubs. My mother looked after household and children and enjoyed what seemed to me a busy social life. My parents went out quite a lot and gave frequent dinner parties. We had marvellous summer holidays – a month by some lake in Austria or occasionally in Italy and then a month in the mountains. I am happy to think of my parents as having had a really good life in the years between the two world wars. Until the fateful year of 1938 I felt at home in Vienna with both my Austrian and my Jewish heritage. Most of our friends were Jewish, but I was not made personally aware of any anti-semitism in our daily lives. We had a spacious apartment in the City’s affluent central district. Conditions may have been rather different in some other parts of the City. We had live-in maids who were invariably Catholic country girls. They got on very well with my mother and they were fond of her children. Our last maid, we called her Malette, was particularly devoted to us.

One day in mid - March 1938 she took me for a walk. The crowds were lining the streets to welcome columns of Nazi storm-troopers. There were cheers and Nazi salutes. I looked up at Malette and was horrified to see her right arm raised and an ecstatic look in her eyes.

It took my father some time to arrange for our departure so it was not until August that we made our tearful farewells before flying to our new life in England. I remember my father telling me that a member of his profession, who was an ardent Nazi, asked him why he was leaving Austria. He said “why don’t you stay - we don’t mean Jews like you”. In other words, he was thinking of poor shabby bearded Galician Jews like some of our cousins might have been. Lucky for us that my father did not take his advice. We left in August and by

year's end all Jewish lawyers were struck off the list of advocates and thus denied a livelihood. And that was just the start of the persecution that led ultimately to mass murder.



My elder brother Ludwig and I on holiday somewhere in Austria ca. 1934

2 Adolescence in England 1938-48

With the Anschluss of March 1938 and our flight to England in the summer of that year the second chapter of my life began. The trauma of being refugees with the urgent need to make linguistic and cultural adjustments fell more heavily on my parents, particularly when it was subsumed in the greater trials of the second world war, the fate of relatives, global dispersal, economic hardships, and finally the loss of my brother Ludwig in 1943, when the ship on which he was returning from Australia via New York was sunk by a U-Boat.

I was unaware of some of these happenings at first because my parents sent me away - to an expensive boarding school where at least I learned English and British social history in record time, partly by immersing myself in a complete set of the Illustrated London News !

In 1940 we moved to Oxford to get away from the nightly air raids on London. I spent two years at the City of Oxford High School, where I obtained my School Certificate with eight distinctions including 100% in economic history (so the master informed me). We returned to our Bayswater flat in 1942 because my mother had a job in the Polish section of the BBC World Service. I did my sixth form studies at Haberdashers Aske's School in Hampstead, obtaining A levels in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

In 1944 at the age of 16 years I went up to Balliol College and was awarded an open (Brackenbury) scholarship to read Chemistry. During the long vacations I educated myself at the Porchester Road Public Library. My reading at that time was mainly English literature, European history, and contemporary affairs. Science was certainly not my only interest during my undergraduate years. I aspired to a wider general education - I had the highest regard for Cyril Hinshelwood, later Lord Hinshelwood, the Professor of Chemistry, and for A.D. Lindsay, later Lord Lindsay of Birker, who as Master of Balliol took a personal interest and, I believe, thought well of me.

I made a painless transition from "alien refugee" to being a patriot of my adopted country at the beginning of war, although we were not formally "naturalised" until 1948.

My father's British heroes were David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, the former partly because he was also a liberal and a solicitor, and the latter,

because our revered war-time leader had strong sympathies with the Zionist cause. We were of course also mindful of Britain's moral leadership over many generations, its traditions of free speech and fair play, and much else.

As I began to emerge from adolescence and the clouds of war began to lift the cost to my family of the past decade came home to me. My grandparents David and Chawa Griffel, my aunt Rosa Gelles, and many cousins vanished without trace in the holocaust. Cousins who survived were dispersed all over the world and contacts were lost. The full effect of these events on my psyche took a long time to make itself felt.

I had other matters in the forefront of my mind, my doctorate in physical chemistry and years in scientific research and teaching, my interest in antiques and fine art as a writer, part-time dealer, and collector, and the pursuit of other cultural interests.

I attach this note by way of introduction to the records of my work on Jewish history and genealogy. When the time came to think again of those who perished in my younger days I was impelled to seek a deeper connection with the history of my forebears.



Balliol College, Oxford 1945

3 Refugees in wartime London and Oxford

A rounded picture of my parents might benefit from my recollection of their friends, particularly from the time we came to England as refugees in 1938 to the early 1950's. For the greater part of this period my parents and I lived in our Bayswater flat. We went to Oxford in 1940 but came back to London in 1942. Two years later I won a scholarship at Balliol College and so I came to be in Oxford for a further six years, but I spent most of the lengthy vacations with my parents in London.

Before coming to England my father was a successful advocate in Vienna and my parents had a social life that revolved round family and a circle of friends, many of whom shared my father's enthusiasm for the Zionist movement of which he was a leading member. Some played bridge with my parents or were my father's chess partners at his regular coffee house. I also remember one or two English visitors who came to see us in Vienna and were helpful in the days leading up to our flight from Austria after the *Anschluss*. My recollection of our early days in England is of contacts with these English families and with emigres from Vienna. During the two years my parents and I were together in Oxford we met some of the latter, who had also sought the relative peace of the "dreaming spires" but returned to the metropolis after a short while, as we did.

Closest were Dr Bela Horovitz and his wife Lotte, whose two older children and I have remained friends to this day. Dr Horovitz was the co-founder and proprietor of the "Phaidon Press", which became a leading publisher of fine art books. Its best-selling book, "The Story of Art" by Ernst Gombrich, made the Phaidon Press a household name. Horovitz also set up the "East and West Library" which published an impressive range of Judaica,

Another Jewish refugee from Vienna was George Weidenfeld with whom we had a passing acquaintance in the mid 1940's, when he worked at the BBC prior to his meteoric rise in the publishing world. During my genealogical studies many decades later I found that we shared some Horowitz and other ancestors.

Friends from our wartime Oxford days included Dr Oskar Rabinowitz and his wife Rose. Again, I did not know at the time that his father and my grandfather were adherents of the Friedman Chasidic leaders of Sadagora and Czortkow.

Oskar was a man of many parts and author of a number of books on Jewish history and politics. His devotion to Jewish culture was expressed in his academic life, his involvement with the Zionist Revisionist movement, and later through his charitable support of Jewish causes.

Back in London, we enjoyed the company of Dr Phoebus Tuttnauer and his wife Olga. We often had lunch with them at their flat in Portland Place. Phoebus was born in the Austro-Hungarian province of Bukowina (later a part of Rumania). He studied medicine in Vienna, and like my father became a a Zionist in his student days. His participation in the movement continued in London. He supported his wife Olga in her enterprising practice as a “beautician” to a distinguished clientele. Her background of medical know-how enabled her to employ and purvey much appreciated home-made cosmetic products. In the 1950’s Phoebus and Olga took up painting and had successful exhibitions at several London Galleries and elsewhere.

I recall the afternoon bridge parties my mother gave during the 1940’s. Frequent visitors at one time were Alberto Casali and his wife Kathleen. His Jewish family was based in Trieste in its Austro-Hungarian days and he shared Zionist sympathies with my father. His wife Kitty Foreman Casali was a very attractive and vivacious lady, After the war the Casalis returned to Trieste and rebuilt the family business. “Stock Spirits Group” survives as a London quoted public company with substantial sales to central and eastern Europe. Alberto received recognition of his social and charitable work (C.B.E. and Cavaliere del Lavoro). After his death his wife became President of the Casali Family Foundation and continued its supporting roles in Israel and elsewhere (see *Casali Foundation* and *Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry*).

Other friends of my parents in wartime London with whom contacts were later lost included the Kolmar family who had an interest in the pre-WW2 company, “Bunzl und Biach”, a fore-runner of today’s major London quoted company Bunzl plc. The Silber family, who were aptly named metal traders, had a son with whom I could talk about European history while his parents and mine had other common interests. An accompanying note on my father Dr David Gelles underlines the common threads with some family friends of this period.



Alberto Casali



Dr Bela Horovitz 1898 – 1955



Kathleen Foreman Casali

4 Ludwig Friedrich Gelles (1922-1943)

Ludwig Gelles was born in Vienna on 3rd June 1922 to Dr David Gelles, advocate of that city and Regina (Renee) Gelles nee Griffel. He was the elder brother of Edward Gelles, who was born on 24th November 1927 (1).

Ludwig was educated at the Akademisches Gymnasium in Vienna. At the time of the *Anschluss* in 1938 he would have been within 2 years of taking his *Matura* (matriculation) and entering the University. Ludwig came to England with his parents and younger brother on 13th August 1938 as refugees from Nazi persecution. His paternal uncle Dr. Max Gellis and maternal uncles Zygmunt and Edward Griffel came to England at about that time, the Griffels moving to the United States before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The Gelles family settled in Bayswater (6 Queens Court, Queensway, W.2) and the children continued their education. Edward was sent to a boarding school and was away from home when in the darkest days of June 1940 many German and Austrian Jewish refugees were rounded up and interned as “enemy aliens” and some were sent to camps on the Isle of Man. These included my father, my uncle Max, and brother Ludwig. This tragic mistake of failing to distinguish refugees from Nazi persecution and possible Nazi sympathisers was quickly rectified. My father was released within a matter of weeks, but by then my uncle and brother had been sent to Australia on S.S. Dunera (2). They were ultimately released in Australia. Uncle Max remained there. He had some business connections and was prominent in amateur chess circles, representing Australia in several international chess matches. After the war he returned to Vienna and resumed his legal practice. He wrote a definitive book on Austrian Company Law which has gone through six revised editions under his name

At the end of 1942 Ludwig was so homesick that he could not be dissuaded from returning to England. As the attached Australian form shows, Ludwig embarked for New York on 29th January 1943. There he stayed with his uncle Edward Griffel but insisted on continuing his hazardous homeward journey. The ship taking him across the Atlantic was torpedoed and sunk not far from these shores (3)

(1) Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage* (Vallentine Mitchell 2006), p.189, 194.

(2) Paul R. Barltrop ed., *The Dunera Affair* (Jewish Museum of Australia 1990)

(3) Australian Military Forces, *Internees Service and Casualty Form* –attached.

GERMAN
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

A.A.F. A. 112
(Introduced August, 1939)

INTERNEES
PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM

Identification No. **E. 39563**
District **U.K. (E. 7356)**
Surname **GELLES**
(Block Capitals)

Rank _____ Other Names **Ludwig**

Date of Capture **27/6/40** 6.40 NATIONALITY **Austrian** 6
Place of Capture **London** 4 Marital Condition **Single** 5
Date of Birth **3rd June 1922** 22 Next of Kin **Nene Gelles**
Place of Birth **Vienna** 21 Address of Next of Kin **6 Queens Court (Queens Court) QUEENS**
Trade or Occupation **Student (Engineering)** 20 **2 Queens Way London W.2**
Religion **Jewish** 3 Relationship **Mother**

MEDICAL — **For Report: ha** 2 Identification—Colour of Hair **Brown** Eyes **Brown**
Distinctive Marks **Nil**

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE.

REPORT		Record of all casualties regarding appointments, transfers, postings, attachments, etc. forfeiture of pay, wounds, amputations, admission to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty Clearing Stations, etc. Date of disembarkation and repatriation from a theatre of war, and any matter affecting a prisoner of war	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty	Authority A.A.F. A.112, or other Document	Signature of Officer Certifying Corrections of Entries
			9.4.40	UK	M. Holt	
6.9.40	SSA Wener	Trd from England to Sydney				
8.11.40	C.C. Hoay	Marched in to Hoay	6.9.40	Hoay	A.113	Althausen
12.6.41	G.C. Hoay	Swam to Darwin	20.5.41	Hoay	A.113	McIntosh
26.5.41	C.C. Tatura	Marched in from Hoay	20.5.41	Tatura	20	Hall
2.2.43		Released to U.K. via Liverpool (Sold 291/103)	27.1.43			Smithells

D.2434, 9.23—C.17119



Ludwig Gelles 1939

5 Dr David Gelles, Advocate and Zionist

Dr David Gelles was born in 1883 in Austrian Galicia to an old rabbinic family, who expected him to become a rabbi and perhaps succeed his father, Nahum Uri Gelles, who was Chief Rabbi of Solotwina. But my father left the Yeshiva at Munkacz in Hungary to seek a secular education and eventually became a Doctor of Law of Vienna University and a successful advocate in that city.

He was a student at the time of rising nationalism and of Theodor Herzl and the beginnings of the Zionist movement, to which he gave his life-long support. He became a prominent member of some of its organisations in Austria and elsewhere.

Extract from :

**Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933
(K.G. Saur, 1980)**

Gelles, David, Dr. jur., Rechtsanwalt; geb. 24. Dez. 1883 Kudrynce/Galizien, gest. 20. Aug. 1964 Wien; jüd.; *V*: Nahum G., jüd.; *M*: Esther, geb. Weinstein, jüd.; ∞ 1921 Renee Grif-fel; *K*: Edward. *Weg*: 1938 GB, 1949 Österr.

Prom. Wien; 1919–38 RA in Wien; Präs. *Herzl-Klub* Wien, Vizepräs. isr. Kultusgde. Wien, Gr. u. Ehrenpräs. *Allg. Zionisten Österreichs*, Mitgl. ZA der Weltkonf. *Allg. Zionisten*. 1938 Emigr. GB, 1938–49 Rechtsberater für kontinentaleurop. Recht in London. 1949 Österr., 1949–64 RA in Wien; VorstMitgl. österr. Zionistenorganisationen.

Qu: Hand. Pers. – RFJI.

David Gelles, Dr of Law and Advocate ... President of the Herzl Club, Vice-President of the Vienna Jewish Community, founder and honorary President of the General Zionists of Austria, member of the central committee of the world conference of General Zionists

More about my father's life and background can be found in my published books and on the website of Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts in "Papers of Edward Gelles".

Chapters 5 and 6 of "Family Connections: Gelles–Shapiro–Friedman" (Shaker Publishing, 2009) add biographical detail to the wider family history described in my preceding book "An Ancient Lineage: European Roots of a Jewish Family" (Vallentine Mitchell, 2006).



Dr David Gelles in Jerusalem (1922) and lecturing in Vienna (1955)

My grandfather Nahum Uri Gelles was born in Narayow, Galicia in 1852 and died in Vienna in 1934. He married Esther, the daughter of Zvi Aryeh Weinstein, the Rabbi of Solotwina, and succeeded his father-in-law as Chief Rabbi in 1884.

In 1914 many Galician Jews sought refuge in the Imperial capital Vienna, as did my grandfather and his flock. My grandfather returned to Solotwina some years after the war. Those remaining in Vienna included the Chasidic leader Israel Friedman of Czortkow who maintained his influence over a large following in that city as well as in the lands that became part of the post-war Polish Republic.

My grandfather was descended from many generations of orthodox rabbis. With the rise of the ultra orthodox Chasidic movement, he and his father before him gave their allegiance to the Czorkower Rebbe, The latter belonged to the Chasidic dynasty founded at Ruzhin and subsequently established by Friedman family members at Sadagora, Czortkow, and Boyan. The Gelles rabbis were distant relatives of the Friedmans, as the appended charts and tables indicate.

In my booklet “ Family Connections : Gelles – Shapiro – Friedman “ (Shaker Publishers, Maastricht 2009) I reproduce a number of excerpts from the orthodox Jewish newspaper “ Juedische Presse “ of the early 1920’s reporting community events involving the Friedmans which show that “Ober-rabbiner Gelles” of Solotwina was held in high regard. I have written more generally about the status of the Chasidic movement in the Age of Enlightenment as in “An Ancient Lineage“ (Valentine Mitchell, 2006) chapter 35 and “The Jewish Journey” (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016), chapter 14.



Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles
Chief Rabbi of Solotwina
died Vienna 1934

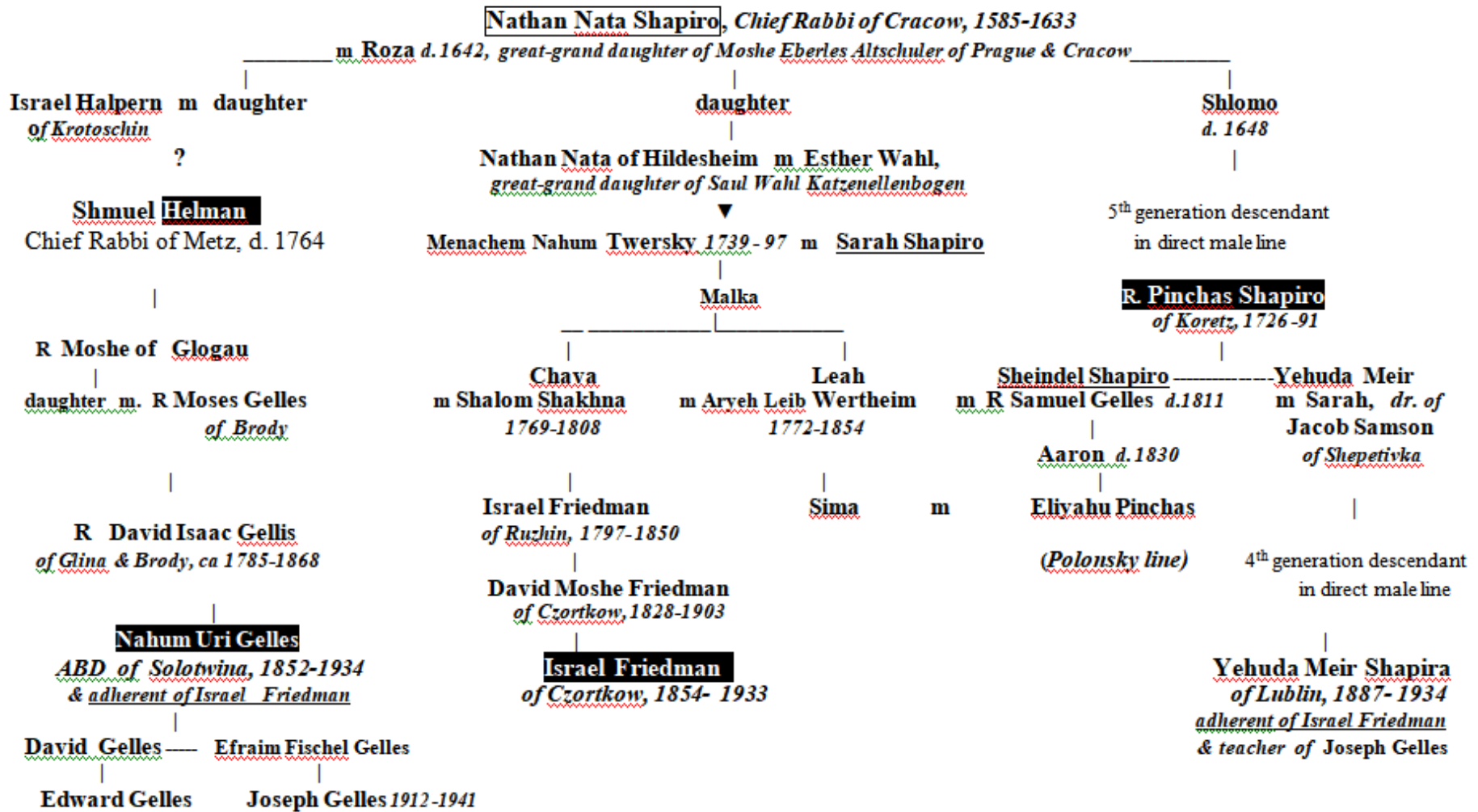


Grand Rabbi Israel Friedman
of Czortkow
died Vienna 1933

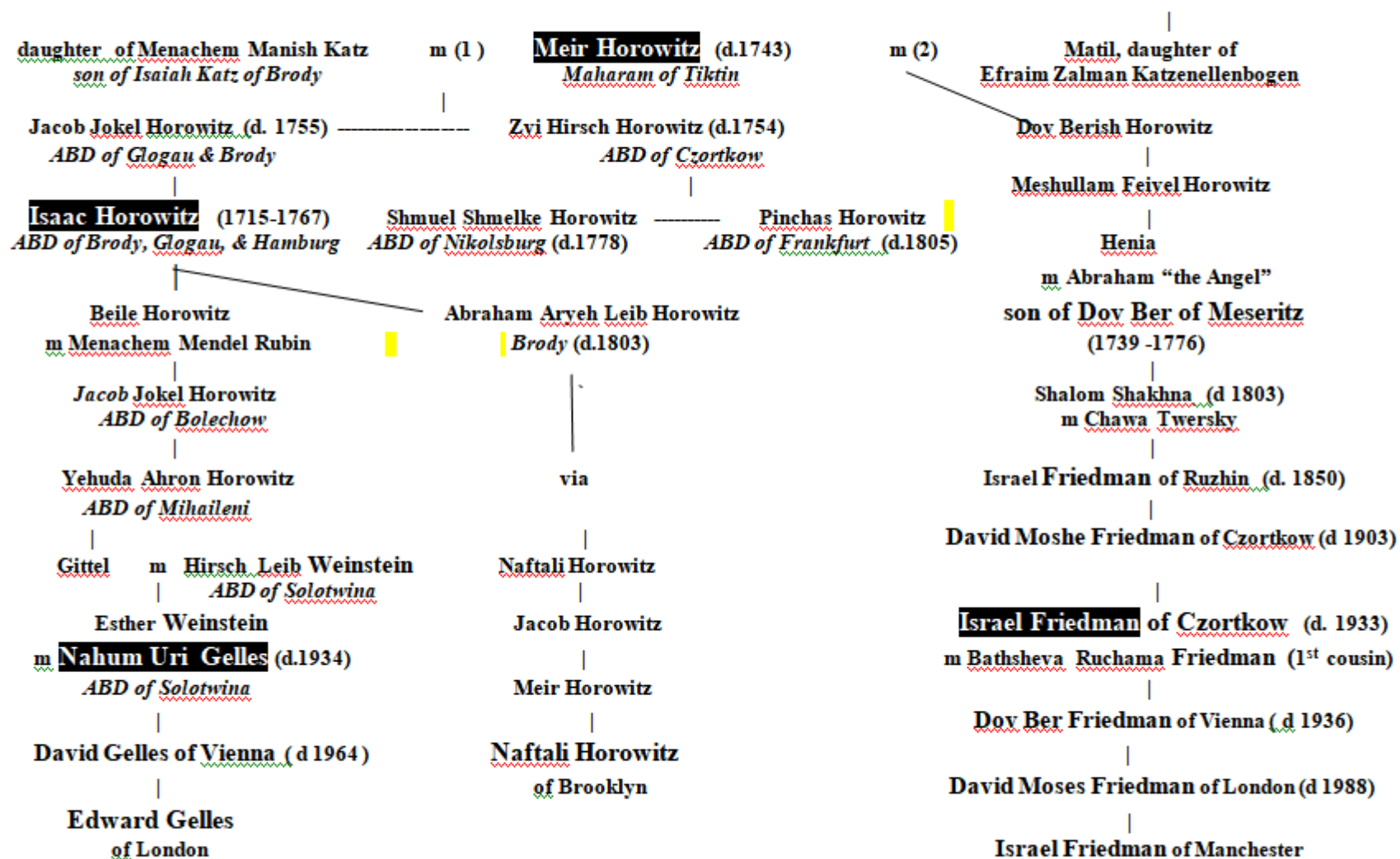


Yehuda Meir Shapira 1887 - 1934
Chief Rabbi of Lublin 1928 - 1934
Founder of the Lublin Sages Yeshiva
and Member of the Polish Parliament

The Shapiro Connection of Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and the Chasidic Grand Rabbi Israel Friedman of Czortkow



Edward Gelles and distant cousins showing some Horowitz and Friedman connections



NEUE NACIONAL-ZEITUNG



XVI. Jahrgang

Wien, 13. November 1914.

Nr. 26.

Um diese Wohltätigkeitsaktion fortsetzen zu können und eventuell zu erweitern, wendet sich das unterzeichnete Komitee an edel fühlende Herzen mit der Bitte, Spenden in Barem und Naturalien, die in diesem Blatte ausgewiesen werden, an den Kassier des Vereines, Herrn Simon Sternberg, II., Rembrandtstraße 39, eventuell an den Obmann des Vereines, Herrn Jakob März, I., Augustengasse 1, gütigst überweisen zu wollen.

Rabbiner M. Mayersohn, Vorsitzender des Komitees.

Rabbiner Isak Friedmann (Bojan).

Rabbiner Israel Friedmann (Czortkow).

Rabbiner Abraham Friedmann (Sadagora).

Rabbiner Moses Babad (Lemberg).

Rabbiner Josef Engel (Krakau).

Rabbiner Meier Arak (Buczacz).

Rabbiner S. Dawid Unger (Zabno).

Rabbiner Uscher Horowitz (Krakau).

Rabbiner M. Weidenfeld (Dabrowa).

Rabbiner Nuchem Gelles (Solotwina).

Rabbiner Pinkas Horowitz (Bohorodezany).

Rabbiner Dr Baruch Margulies (Drohobycz).

usw. usw.

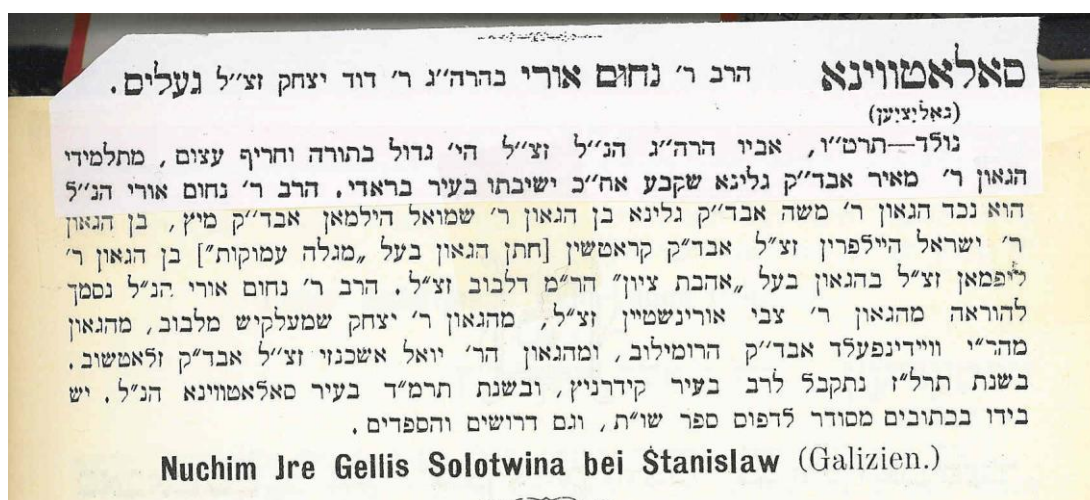
LEADING GALICIAN RABBIS ON AID COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES IN VIENNA 1914

Pedigree of Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles

Chief Rabbi of Sopotwina near Stanislau (1884 -1934)

born Narayow 1852 and died in Vienna 1934

(Grandfather of Edward Gelles)



Ohalei Shem by Shmuel Noach Gottlieb, published in Pinsk, 1912 (pp 261-2)
“ a descendant of Chief Rabbi Shmuel Helman of Metz, son of Israel Halpern of Krotoschin, who was a son-in-law of Chief Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro of Cracow”

Eliezer Lipman Zak, *MS R.761* at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, and later sources

Nathan Nata Shapiro of Cracow (died 1633) was the eponymous grandson of Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro of Grodno (died 1577). My Gelles line had connections with the Shapiro for many generations

Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage*, Tables 32 (page 261) and 37 (page 286)
The Jewish Journey, Chart 0.2 (page 20) and page 64

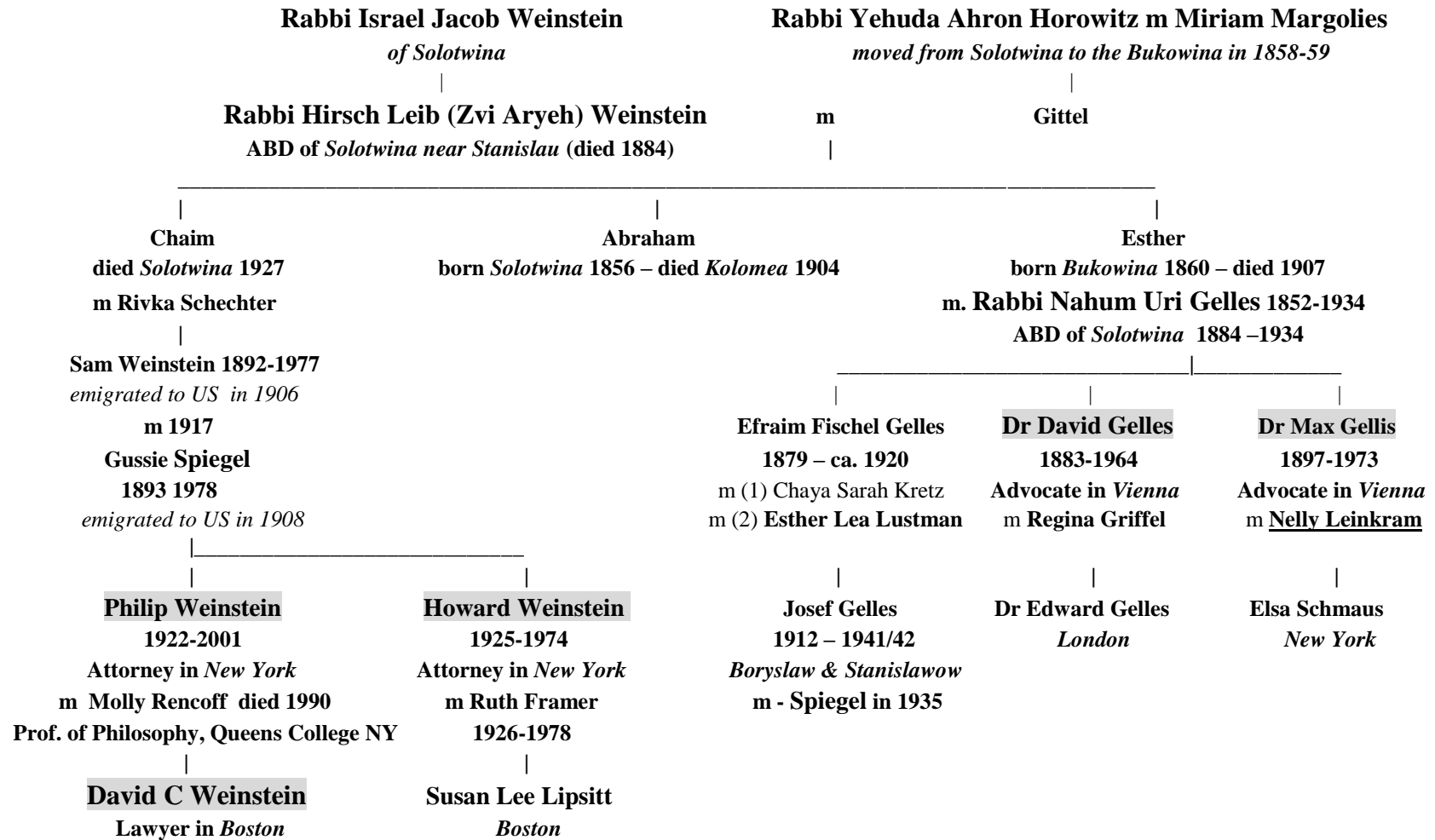
Rabbis Nahum Uri Gelles of Solotwina and Israel Friedmann of Czortkow
Graves in Vienna, Zentral-Friedhof – Gate IV, Group 21

	27	28	29	30
<u>ROW 16</u>	Nahum Uri Gelles d. 18. 11. 1934 aged 82 years <i>son of</i> <i>Rabbi David Isaac Gellis</i>	Ruchama Shewa Friedmann d. 1. 11. 1934 aged 78 years <i>daughter of</i> <i>Abraham Jacob Friedmann</i> <i>Admur of Sadagora</i>	-	Israel Friedmann d. 1. 12. 1933 aged 79 years <i>son of</i> <i>David Moses Friedmann</i> <i>Admur of Czortkow</i>
<u>ROW 17</u>	Benzion Katz d. 6. 11. 1934 aged 46 years	Dov Ber Friedmann d. 11. 9. 1936 aged 52 years <i>son of</i> <i>Israel & Ruchama Shewa Friedmann</i>		

Rabbi Israel Friedmann was married to his first cousin Ruchama Shewa for 63 years. One of their sons is buried in an adjacent grave. Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles has an honoured place of rest as one close to Friedmann's family and among his circle of adherents that included Rabbi Benzion Katz, Rabbi of Czernowitz in the Bukowina, sometime residents in Vienna. The Hebrew tombstone inscription for Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles reads:

Here lies Rabbi Nahum Uri who served for fifty years as Av Beth Din of Solotwina
 son of the pious Rabbi David Isaac of blessed memory from Brody
 both of whom spent time in the shadow of tzadikim
 Born 20th Shevat 5612
 Passed away 11th Kislev 5695
 May his soul be bound in the bond of everlasting life

Gelles and Weinstein



Descent from Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe of Prague, Grodno, and Posen (1530 – 1612)





from my paternal great-grandfather Rabbi Zvi Aryeh Weinstein of Solotwina - my second cousins, Howard, Nancy, and Philip Weinstein. Howard and Philip were attorneys in New York.

Weinstein Descendants

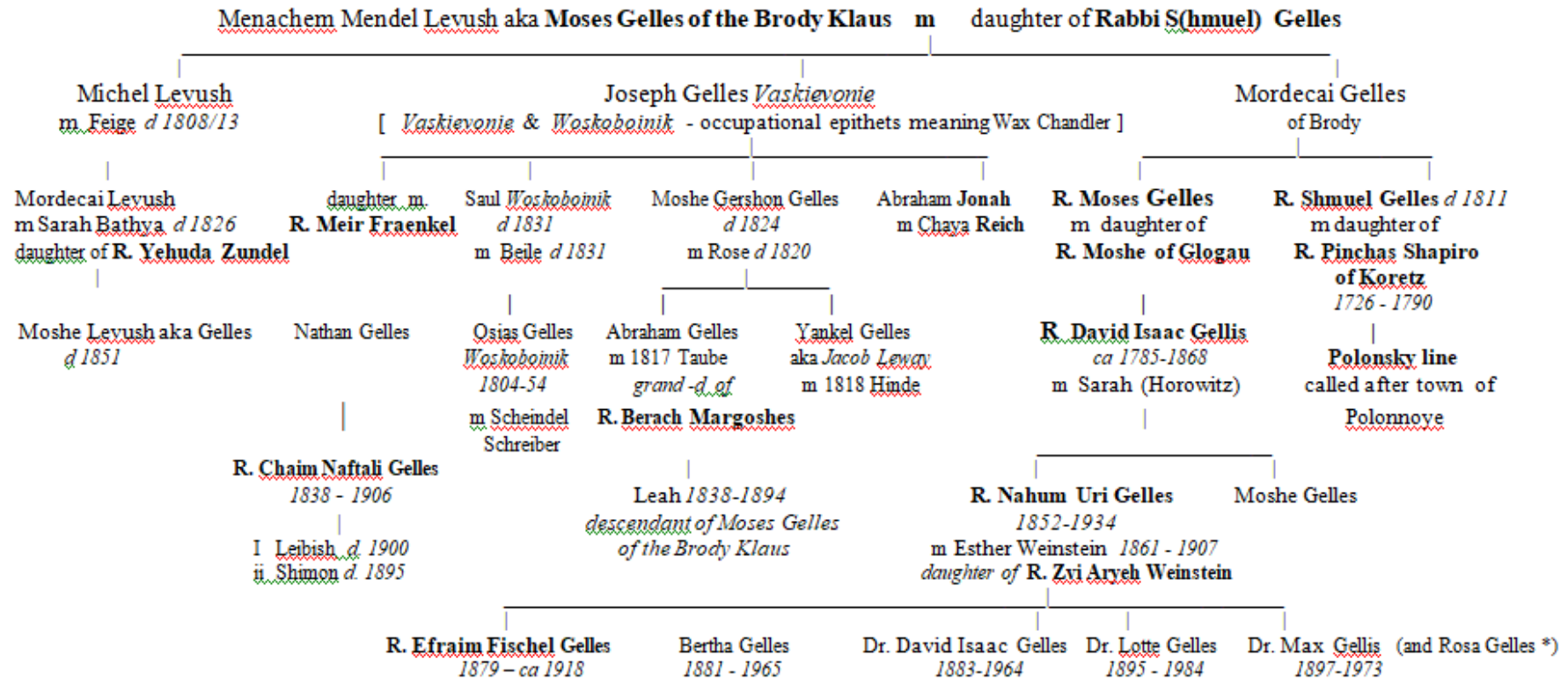
(see my book "The Jewish Journey" - chart 18.1 on page 222)



Their respective daughters Susan Lee and Elaine Beth Weinstein (my second cousins once removed) are shown with their aunt Nancy in 2012

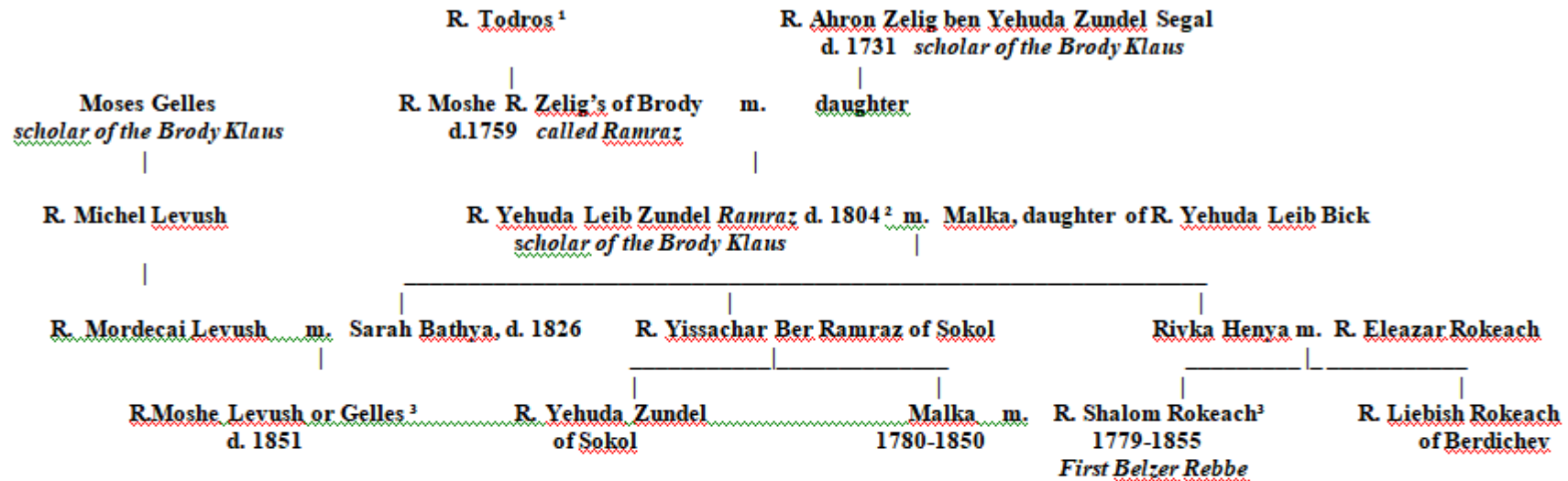
Moses Gelles of the Brody Klaus

called “Levush” after the *magnum opus* of his 16th century ancestor Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe of Prague , Grodno, and Posen he became a scholar of the Brody Klaus and took the Gelles name of his father-in-law, the Rabbi of Siemiatycze



a 6th sibling, Rosa Gelles died in the Holocaust

Connections of Moses Gelles, scholar of the Brody Klaus, with Zundel Ramraz, and Shalom Rokeach, first Belzer Rebbe



¹ R. Todros was a descendant of R. Todros Abulafia, of the family distinguished as scholars and courtiers in 13th & 14th century Spain.

² R. Yehuda Zundel of Brody may have been married (secondly) to Frieda, daughter of R. Yitzchak of Sokol, who was a descendant of many famous rabbis. Rabbi Yehuda Zundel, like his grandfather was a scholar of the Brody Klaus, and so were Moses Gelles and Jacob Horowitz. The latter married Sarah, a daughter of R. Todros Zundel Ramraz (nephew of the above Yehuda Leib Zundel). Jacob's son Rabbi Todros Zundel Horowitz (d. 1866) of Brody and Busk, author of *Shoresh Miyakov*, was thus a cousin of one of our Gelles lines. Other Horowitz connections are shown in later charts.

³ Some descendants of Moses Gelles of Brody and of the Rokeach Grand Rabbis of Belz also share a Zundel Ramraz ancestor. Chaya, a grand-daughter of R. Liebish Rokeach of Berdichev, married Israel Brodsky (1823-89).

Sources: E. Gelles, *Finding Rabbi Moses Gelles*, Avotaynu, vol. xviii, No.1, Spring 2002

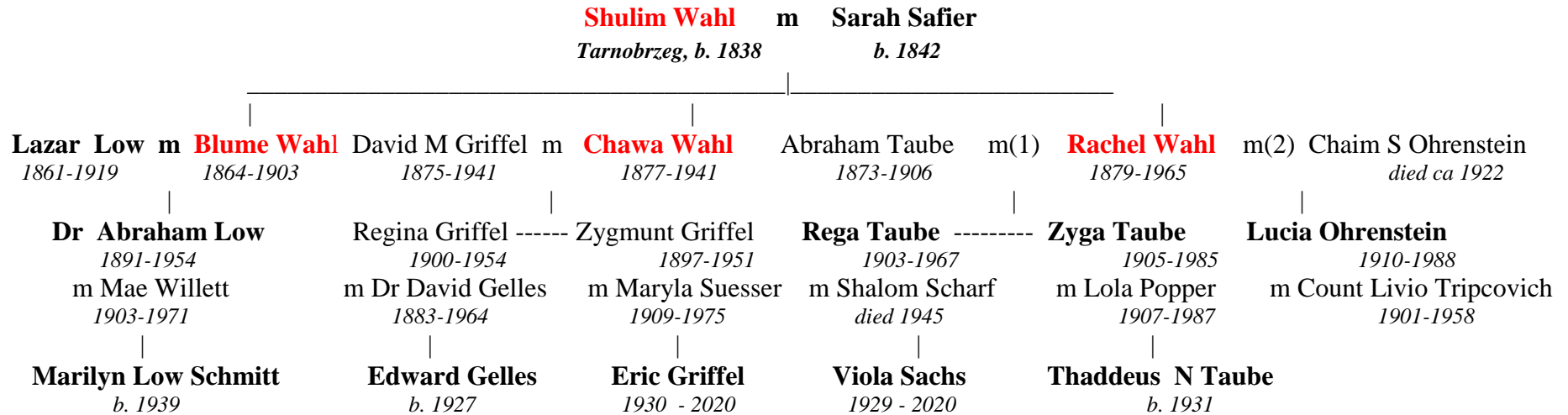
Arim Ve'Imahot Be'Israel, vol. 6 (Brody), pp 54, 56, 69-70.

Meir Wunder, *Meorei Galicia*, vol 4, pp 844-907 and 967-9

Yitzchak Shlomo Yodlov, *Sefer Yichus Belza*, pp 25-35 and 311-315

Neil Rosenstein, *The Unbroken Chain*, pp. 806-07 and 1103-04 for Brodsky connections.

Some of my Wahl cousins



Shulim Wahl of Tarnobrzeg in Galicia, whose occupation is given in the records as “capitalist”, was a son of Leizer Wahl, born in 1815, who was described in the memoirs of Tarnobrzeg’s mayor as one of the two richest men in that little town [1].

Shulim Wahl and Sarah Safier had six children. Their three daughters Blume, Chawa, and Rachel Wahl married descendants of the Jewish community leaders, Low of Sedziszow , Griffel of Nadworna , and Taube of Belz [2].

Rachel Wahl Taube (who was from
Lewonin in Galicia)
with three of her
children: Rega, on
the left, my father
Zyga on the right, and
Lucia in front. Rega
and Zyga were the
children of Abraham
Taube, but he died in
1905 at age thirty-
three. Rachel Taube
remained in Kraków with
Rega and Zyga in
1914. Soon after she
married a Kraków
resident, Chaim
Beyman Ohrenstein,
with whom she had a
daughter, Lucia, born
in 1910. This photo
was taken perhaps
a year later. Kraków
became the place
of residence for the
branch of the Taube
family for over 20
years, other branches
remained in Łódź or
other towns in Eastern
Galicia.



Rachel Wahl and her children Rega and Zyga Taube and Lucia Ohrenstein

Photo ca. 1912

Courtesy of Tad Taube, *Worlds lost and gained. A Polish-American Journey* (published 2011)

Blume Wahl and Lazar Low had nine children, Their fifth was Abraham who studied medicine in Vienna, where he was close to the family of his first cousin, my mother Regina Griffel . Abraham Low served in the First World War as medical officer of an elite Austrian infantry regiment [3]. After the war he emigrated to the United States and became a noted psychiatrist in Chicago [4]. His two daughters visited me in London after I began to publish our family history. They gave continued support to their father's "Recovery International". Marylin Low Schmitt was a Professor of Art History .

Chawa Wahl and David Mendel Griffel had three children, my mother Regina and my two uncles Zygmunt and Edward Griffel. My uncles who lived in Poland before WW2 often visited us in Vienna. My first cousin Eric Griffel and I were briefly together at a boarding school near London in 1938 – 39 before he went to the United States with his parents and on to a career in the US Foreign Service [5].

Rachel Wahl and Abraham Taube had two children, Rega and Zyga. In naming her children "little Regina" and "little Zygmunt" Rachel may have followed her elder sister Chawa's Regina and Zygmunt Griffel [6]. Rega came from Cracow to visit us in Vienna around 1934. The next time there was any contact with the Taube cousins was in 1953 when I was a post-doctoral research associate at Berkeley, California. I contacted Zyga Taube and went to meet him in Los Angeles. Half a century later, I corresponded with Rega Taube's daughter Viola Sachs, who had made a name for herself as a specialist in areas of American literature, and received recognition for her work in Poland, Brazil, and in France where she was Professor at the University of Paris [7]. And at this time Tad Taube came to London with his wife Dianne for a happy encounter and I have kept in touch while he has continued his remarkable philanthropy in support of many good causes including the study of Jewish heritage, particularly in his native Poland [8]

Rachel Wahl married again after Abraham Taube's death and had a daughter, Lucia Ohrenstein, whose 3rd husband was Count Livio Tripovich of an old Croatian family who were major ship owners in Trieste. Many years after Lucia's death I corresponded with the Tripovich family, including the composer Baron Raffaello de Banfield-Tripovich and learnt much of their fascinating family story [9].

References

AL refers to my first book “An Ancient Lineage : European roots of a Jewish family – Gelles, Griffel, Wahl, Chajes Safier Loew, Taube “, published by Vallentine Mitchell, 2006

JJ refers to my latest book “ The Jewish Journey – A Passage through European History”, published by I.B.Tauris, 2016 (now Bloomsbury Publishers)

EG refers to the Edward Gelles Collection.on the web site of the Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts

[1] AL – Chapter 12 - My Mother’s People. Note 10 on page 89 – Jan Slomka,”From Serfdom to Self-Government ” Memoirs of a Polish Village Mayor, 1842-1917 (London. Minerva 1941)

[2] AL – Chapter 13 – Three Sisters (Blume, Chawa, and Rachel Wahl)

[3] AL - Chapter 9 – A WW1 postcard from Dr. Abraham Low reveals my mother’s family connections

AL - Chapter 11 – A Ship’s manifest. Connecting the Low and Wahl families.

The Loews of Sedziszow – Genealogical Table on p.80

[4] AL – Chapter 10 – Vital Records.

note 12 N. and M. Rau, “ My Dear Ones” Biography of Dr Abraham Low (Recovery Inc., Chicago,1986)

[5] AL – Chapter 15 – The Griffels. A clan spread far and wide.

EG - “ Wahl of Tarnobrzeg and Wohl of Cracow”

[6] JJ - Chapter 8 – A Polish Affair, Sigismund III Vasa and Hannele Wahl

[7] AL – Chapter 25 - Viola’s Quest for Identity.

EG - “ Viola Sachs and cousins “

[8] AL - Chapter 22 - The Taube Family. Their history and ancient links

AL - Chapter 23 - Tad Taube. Portrait of a Philanthropist.

EG – “ Connections of Tad Taube and Edward Gelles “

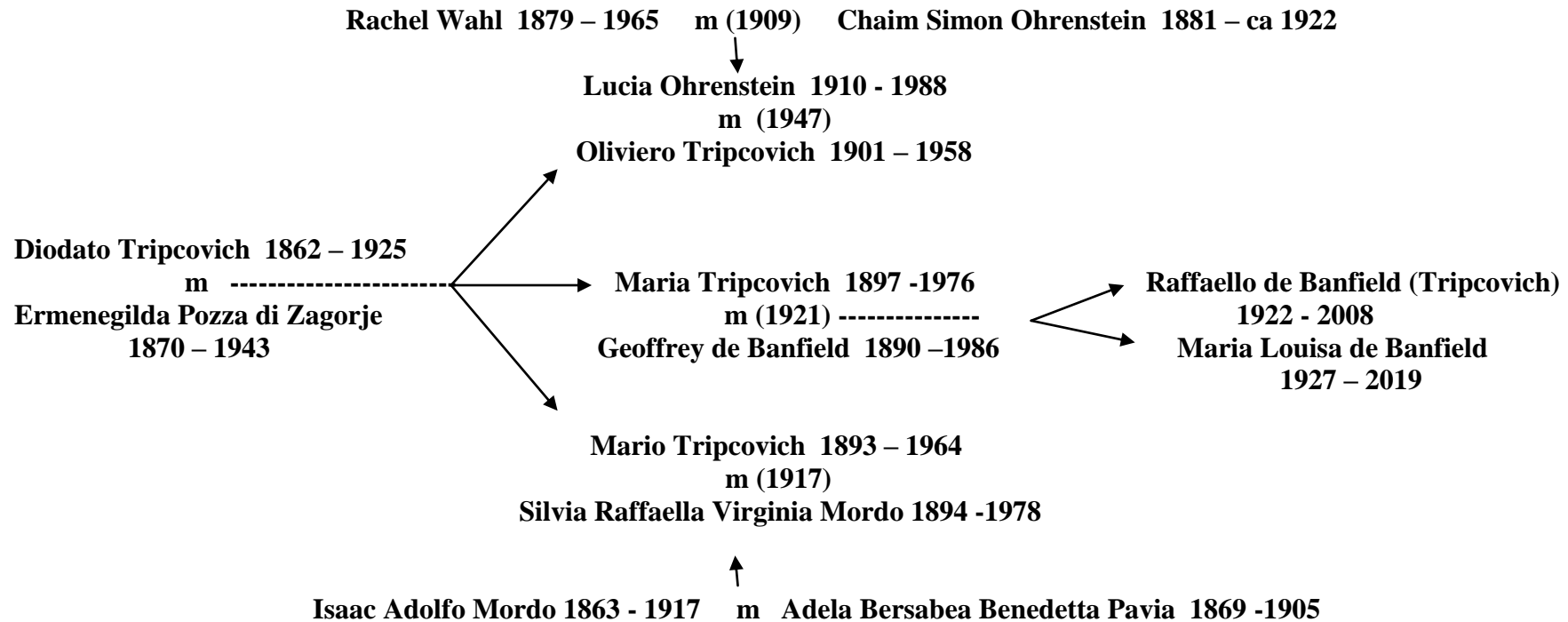
EG - “Some Family Connections with Wahl Katzenellenbogen “

[9] AL - Chapter 24 - Lucia’s Dolce Vita. The adventurous life of an Italian cousins JJ - Chapter 17 – They met in Trieste. (Christians and Jews in an ethnic melting pot).

10.

Lucia Ohrenstein and the Tripcovich family of Trieste

see Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage* (2006), chapter 24 – “Lucia’s Dolce Vita”
The Jewish Journey (2016), chapter 17 – “ They met in Trieste”
Some of my Wahl Cousins (web site)



NOTES

The background to this family story takes in the migrations of ancient Jewish families in which Italy has played a major role. And its setting in Trieste, which has seen such a varied history including hundreds of years as part of the Austrian Empire before it became a part of modern Italy, illustrates a prime example of a generally successful “ethnic melting pot.”

Lucia Ohrenstein was descended through her mother, Rachel Wahl, from Saul Wahl and the 16th century Katzenellenbogen Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice. - a claim my Taube cousins and I shared respectively through Rachel Wahl's first marriage to Abraham Taube and through my mother Regina Griffel, the daughter of Chawa Wahl, who was Rachel Wahl's elder sister.

Lucia Ohrenstein was born in Cracow and fled to Italy at the outbreak of WW2 with the help of her well connected (second) husband Romeo Puri Purini, after whose death she married Count Oliviero Tripcovich of Trieste. Livio's' first marriage in 1929 to Elizabeth Brockway Crispin had ended in divorce.

Diodato Tripcovich of an ancient Dalmatian family with claims to Byzantine title came from Dobrota to establish a major shipping concern in Trieste and with Ermenegilda Pozza , a lady of a noble Croatian stock, raised two sons and a daughter. Both sons married Jewish girls of distinguished lineage. Mario Tripcovich married Silvia Mordo from a Corfiote family who had settled in Trieste. They had close family connections with Pavia, Morpurgo and Segre. Silvia's father objected to her marrying “out” and this romance, involving the Tripcovish house tutor James Joyce as a go-between, is a tragic story mentioned in my book “The Jewish Journey”.

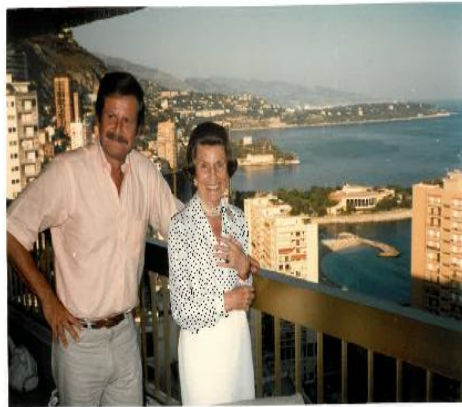
Diodato and Ermenegilda's daughter Maria became the wife of “The Eagle of Trieste”, an Austrian WW1 air ace, who was from an old Irish-Bohemian family for long in the Habsburg service. Gottfried von Banfield, to give his name in German, was ennobled as “Freiherr” and made a Knight of the Order of Maria Theresa. He took a leading part in the running of the Tripcovich shipping empire after his father-in-law's death. Their son Raffaello de Banfield otherwise Baron Raffaello Douglas von Banfield Tripcovich was a composer of note. He was born in Newcastle on Tyne and died in Trieste (1922 – 2008),

I began my family research about 10 years after Lucia's death but I had the benefit of a very friendly correspondence with Raffaello and subsequently with his sister Maria Louisa (known as “Pinky”), who invited me to visit the family in Trieste, and I also had the personal reminiscences of Tad Taube.

The family's history was acknowledged by the King of Italy in 1936 when the eldest son Mario Tripcovich was ennobled as a hereditary Count while the younger Livio was given the honour as a "personal" title". My first book "An Ancient Lineage" contains Figures 23-25 showing primary documentation on the lives of Lucia and Livio.



Lucia Tripcovich nee Ohrenstein and her husband Count Livio Tripcovich



Lucia Ohrenstein Tripcovich at her apartment in Monaco
with her nephew Tad Taube and with Tad's son Mark
ca. 1959

11. Viola Sachs

Viola Sachs, Tad Taube, and Edward Gelles are cousins who are descended from Shulim Wahl and Sarah Safier of Tarnobrzeg. The sisters Chawa and Rachel Wahl named their children Regina and Zygmunt and Rega and Zyga respectively. Thereby hangs a tale (Edward Gelles, “The Jewish Journey”, chapter 8).

Viola was the daughter of Rega Taube and Shulim Scharf and married the economist Ignacy Sachs. Her interests in American literature, and her academic achievements were touched upon in an earlier essay (Edward Gelles, “An Ancient Lineage”, chapter 25).

Viola was born in Hamburg in 1929. Her life in Poland, Brazil, India, and France, her marriage and children have a genealogical background to my study of which Viola’s daughter Céline Sachs-Jeantet and her son Adrien Jeantet have contributed in a number of ways, thus allowing me to build on Tad Taube’s personal recollections of Viola’s earlier years .

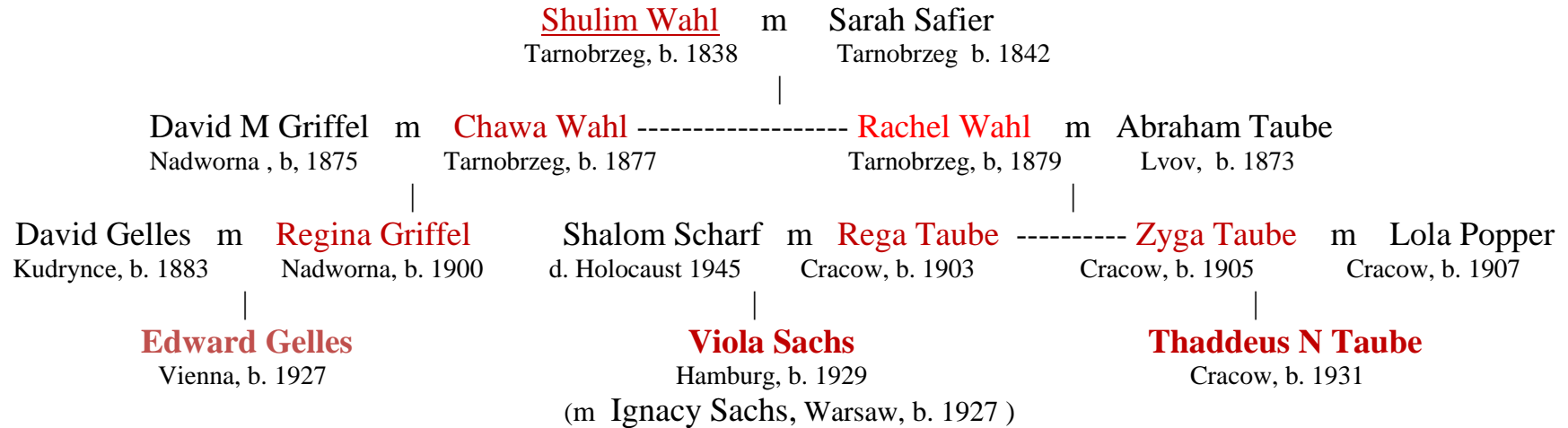


Viola and her grandmother Rachel Wahl



Viola Sachs

Viola Sachs and cousins



Edward Gelles, Viola Sachs, and Thaddeus Taube are cousins, our common great-grand parents being Shulim Wahl and Sarah Safier from Tarnobrzeg in Galicia.

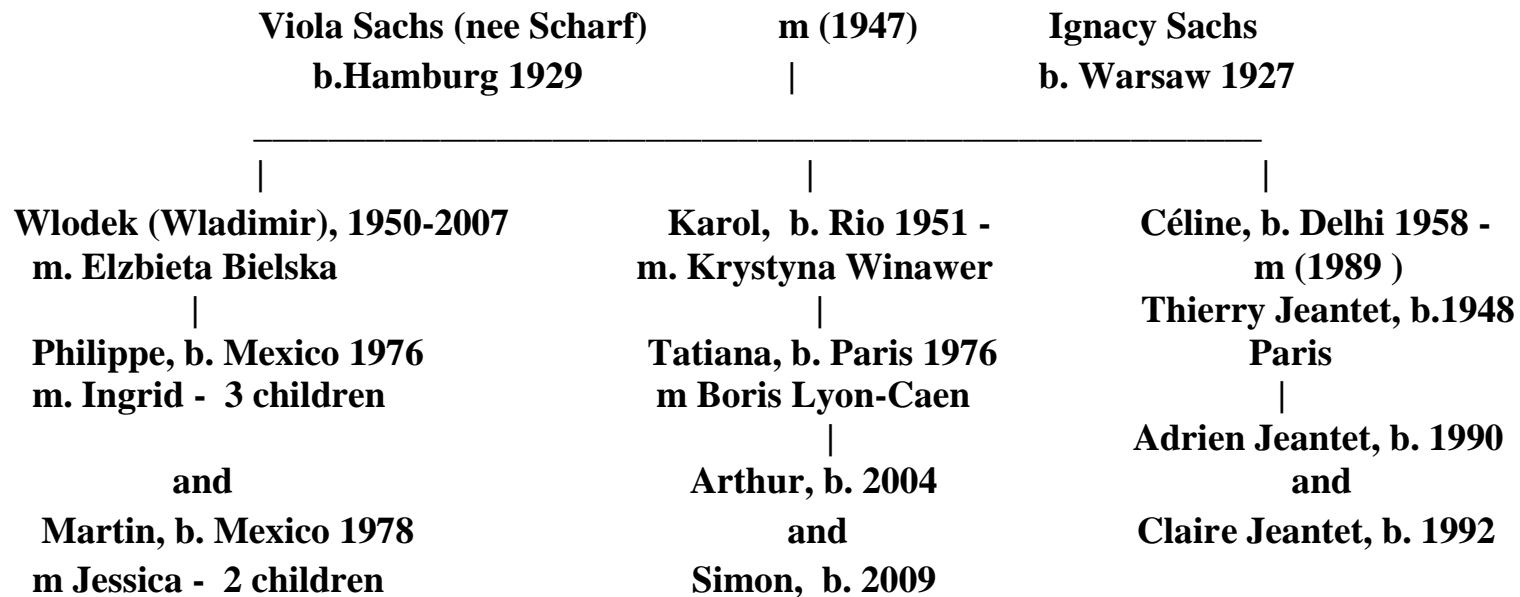
Through Shulim Wahl, we are descendants of Saul Wahl (1545 -1617), the Polish community leader and statesman, who was the son and grandson of the 16th century Katzenellenbogen Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice.

I had some contacts with my Taube cousins long before I took a serious interest in family genealogy. Rega Taube, who was a first cousin of my mother Regina Griffel (see above chart), came to visit us in Vienna in the mid 1930's, and I remember her well even though it was over 80 years ago. I had lunch with Zyga Taube (Tad's father) in Los Angeles during my stay at the University of California, Berkeley, where I was a post-doctoral research associate in 1952- 54. Nearly 50 years later I began my ongoing inter-disciplinary studies. Tad Taube and his wife Dianne came to see me in London at that time. Tad has become a leading American philanthropist who has given major support to Jewish heritage in the United States and elsewhere, particularly in his native Poland. At this time I also contacted Viola Sachs and corresponded with her for a couple of years about her literary work. Nearly 50 years later I began my ongoing inter-disciplinary studies.

I published my first book "An Ancient Lineage : European roots of a Jewish family – Gelles, Griffel, Wahl, Chajes, Safier. Loew, Taube" in 2006. A section of this book (chapters 22 to 25) was devoted to "Taube Cousins and their Connections ". Chapter 25 is headed "Viola's quest for identity. Another cousin's intellectual odyssey."

The histories of migration from the eve of the second world war were relatively straight forward for me and my parents and also for Tad Taube and his parents, who fled respectively from Austria to England and from Poland to the United States.

Viola had a complex journey from Poland to Brazil where she married the distinguished economist Ignacy Sachs, who had come to Brazil from Poland via France. They returned to post-war Poland, had several years in India, and finally settled in France. In the process she made a name for herself as a specialist historian of American literature and was Professor at the University of Paris. Surviving children of her marriage are the banker Karol Sachs and the artist, author, and entrepreneur Céline Sachs-Jeantet. The voluminous bibliographies of Viola and Ignacy are available on the internet. Little biographical detail has been published (Ignacy Sachs, *La Troisième Rive* (Bourin Editeur, Paris 2007).



Details of the Jeantet line from Ignacy and Viola Sachs (by courtesy of Adrien Jeantet), include a partial family tree of Ignacy Sachs, whose parents were Jerzy Sachs and Anna Szerszowska. His mother's grandparents were Leon and Sarah Davidson.

Thierry Jeantet, who married Céline Sachs, is the son of Fernand Charles Jeantet (1912-1996) who was born in Algeria and became a distinguished lawyer in private and academic legal spheres and in the French public service.

His wife Simone Sanson collaborated with him in legal practice at one time. Jeantet was involved in the foundation of the major law firm that bears his name.

Post Script : this essay was written shortly before the death of Viola Sachs in Paris on 26th June, 2020.



Krystyna, wife of Karol Sachs, with Thierry Jeantet and his wife Celine Sachs Jeantet



Ignacy Sachs and Viola Scharf in 1940'



Adrien Jeantet and his sister Claire with their father Thierry Jeantet

12 Tad Taube and his family connections



Thaddeus Norman Taube and his wife Dianne Taube

Tad Taube has become one of the most prominent Jewish philanthropists in America. His career and the cultural contributions he has made in many ways, in his home state of California, in his native Poland, in Israel, and elsewhere can be followed on the web sites of his Foundations.

I wrote a concise history of his family origins which can be found in my first book “ An Ancient Lineage : European Roots of a Jewish Family : Gelles–Griffel– Wahl– Chajes– Safier – Loew -Taube “ (Vallentine Mitchell, London, 2006).

In the preceding chapter 9 of the present “ Facets of my Family History” I set out the connections of some of my Wahl cousins, whose common 19th century ancestors Shulim Wahl and Sarah Safier lived in Tarnobrzeg, a liitle town in the then Austrian province of Galicia. We are descended through Shulim Wahl from Saul Wahl, scion of the Katzenellenbogen, the 16th century Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice.

Saul Wahl was a son of Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen and Abigail Jaffe. He had a brilliant career in Poland and a distinguished progeny which I considered in my afore-mentioned book and its sequel “The Jewish Journey :A Passage through European History” ((Bloomsbury Publishers, 2016)

Shulim Wahl and Sarah Safier had six children including three daughters, Blume, Chawa, and Rachel Wahl , who married into families that provided the Jewish community leaders of their respective towns. Chawa Wahl was the wife of my grandfather David Mendel Griffel of Nadworna and her sister Rachel Wahl married Abraham Taube of Lemberg (Lviv) whose family had been based in Krystinopol and neighbouring town of Belz. The children of Rachel Wahl and Abraham Taube were called Rega and Zyga, while the children of Chawa Wahl and David Griffel included my mother Regina and her brother Zygmunt. These two Wahl sisters were my grandmother and the grandmother of Tad Taube. Tad and I are 2nd cousins.

Tad’s parents, Zyga Taube and Lola Popper, lived in Torun in northern Poland before Tad was born – in Cracow in 1931. The family managed to escape to New York before Poland was engulfed in 1939. After a short while they moved to Los Angeles where Zyga’s enterprise gave the family a comfortable base.. Tad’s business career took off after gaining degrees at Stanford University and a short period of service in the U.S. Air Force. Success in the textile business was followed by the ongoing development of a property empire which gave Tad the opportunity of starting on his life’s work as a major philanthropist. Some of the impetus for this surely came from the political upheavals of his youth which influenced his traditionalist free enterprise views. He was an active member of several academic socio-economic boards and became an Overseer of the Hoover Institution.

To mention just a few of his interests and the innumerable recipients of his largesse, firstly the several major donations to his *Alma Mater* and his personal involvement in its academic and social life, his support of the cultural life in the San Francisco Bay area, involvement with several Colleges and Universities in the U.S and in Israel, the creation of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture with its major achievement in the restoration of Jewish life in Poland and appreciation of the Jewish contribution to Polish history.

And Poland has responded to - the Honorable Tad Taube, Consul of the Republic of Poland in Northern California, Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and Doctor *honoris causa* of the Jagiellonian University of Cracow.



Polish-born US businessman and philanthropist Tad Taube has received an honorary doctorate from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow

Ted Taube. Photo: PAP/Jacek Bednarczyk

Taube was awarded the distinction in 2018 for his efforts to revitalise Jewish life and culture in Poland.



Edward Gelles meeting cousin Tad Taube and his wife Dianne in London (2002)

References

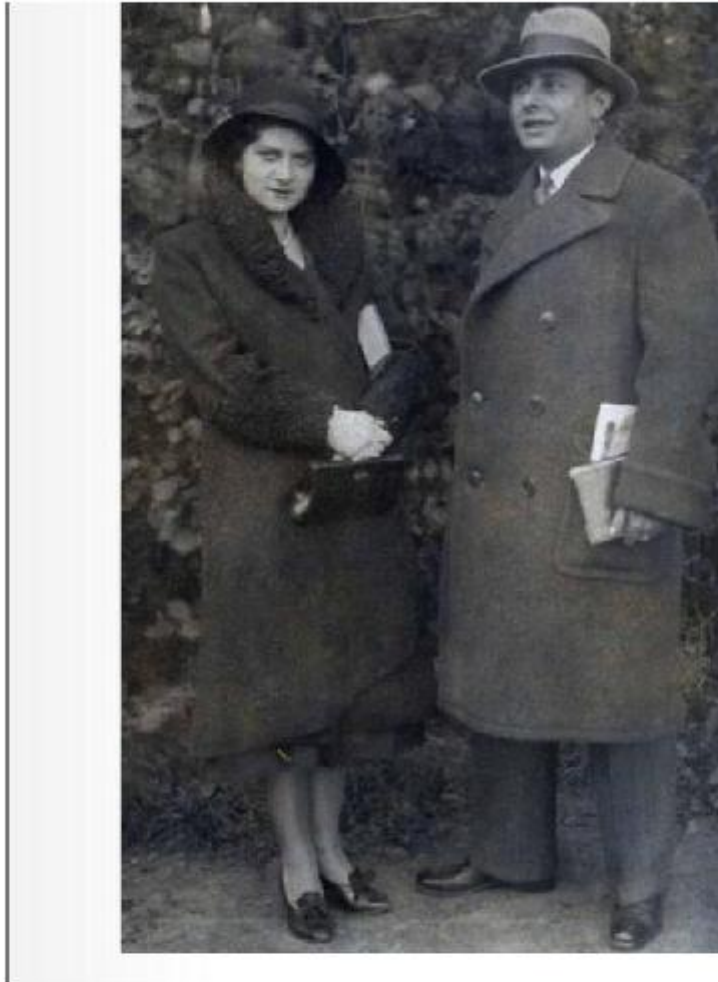
My genealogical charts of “The Family of Leopold Popper of Bielitz “ and of “ Taube Family Connections” are appended below. They were originally published by me in my book “An Ancient Lineage“ in 2006.

Additional research material on Taube connections including notes on the Popper family and the Weinbergs of Bucarest is on the Balliol College, Oxford web site: “Papers of Edward Gelles in Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts”

Tad Taube’s personal record and that of his immediate family can be read on the web site of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture :

“Worlds Lost and Gained. A Polish - American Journey“ by Tad Taube, 2011

“The Journey and a Life in Business. The Destination and Philanthropy“ by Tad Taube , 2013.



my journey is over,
in Toruń, where
we lived for the
first six years of
my life. Toruń is
one of the oldest
cities in Poland
and the birthplace
of the astronomer
Nicolaus
Copernicus. There
were no Toruń
connections in my
family until Zyga
went there for the
export business.
Toruń is not far
from both Danzig,
or Gdańsk, where
the Polish Solidarity
movement began
in 1980, and which
helped overthrow
Communism five
years later.

Zyga and Lola Taube in Torun, Poland, 1930

Courtesy of Tad Taube, son of Zyga and Lola Taube

Tad Taube published this photograph in "Worlds lost and gained, A Polish-American Journey, 2011"



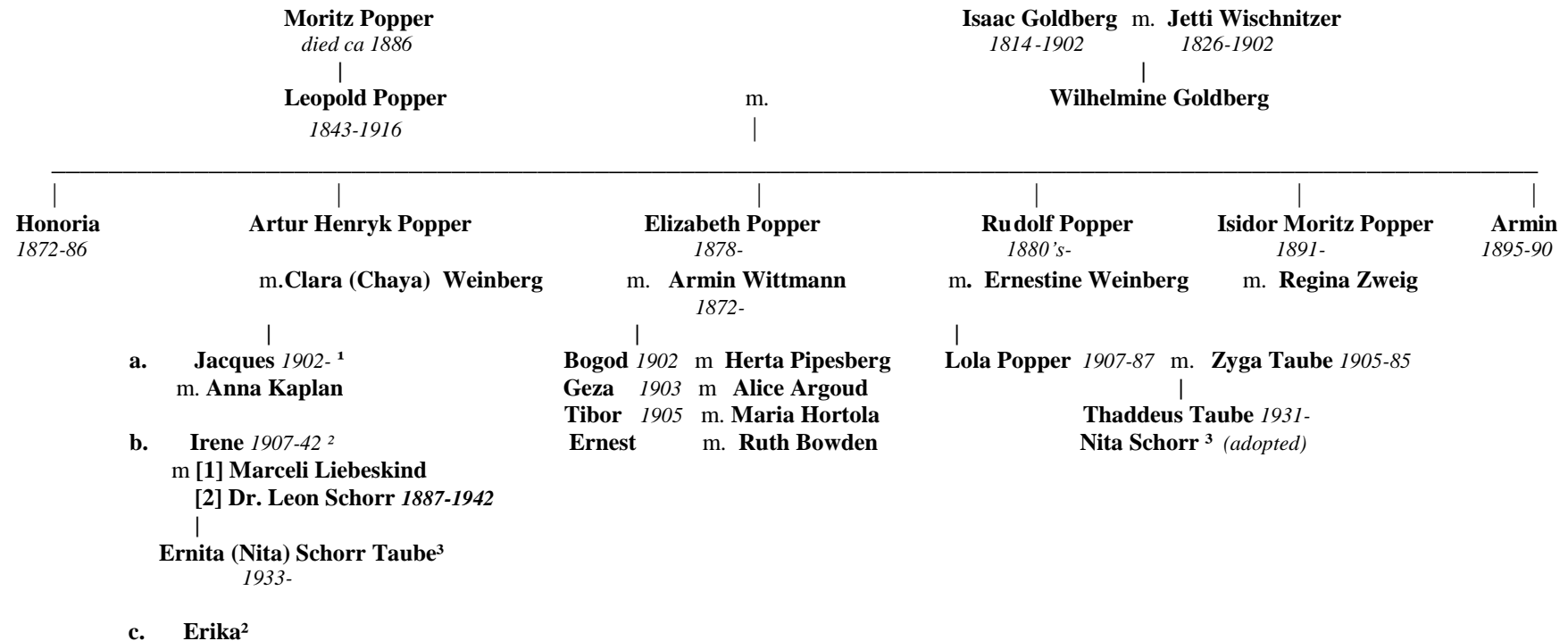
Ernestyna with her beautiful daughter, Lola, my mother, in 1911 when my mother was just four years old. Lola's family traced its roots to Pilsen, in Bohemia, and Vienna, capital of the Empire. Most of the family hailed from Moravia. Ernestyna was born in Pilsen, Moravia, in 1863.

Ernestyna Popper nee Weinberg with her daughter Lola, aged 4 years

Photo 1911

Courtesy of Tad Taube, son of Lola Popper and Zyga Taube, who published this photograph in 2011 in his book, *Worlds lost and gained. A Polish-American Journey.*

The Family of Leopold Popper of Bielitz



Notes : ¹ Jacques had another marriage in Cracow (1931) to Marta, daughter of Alfred Holzer and Liebe Silberberg of Borgentowna

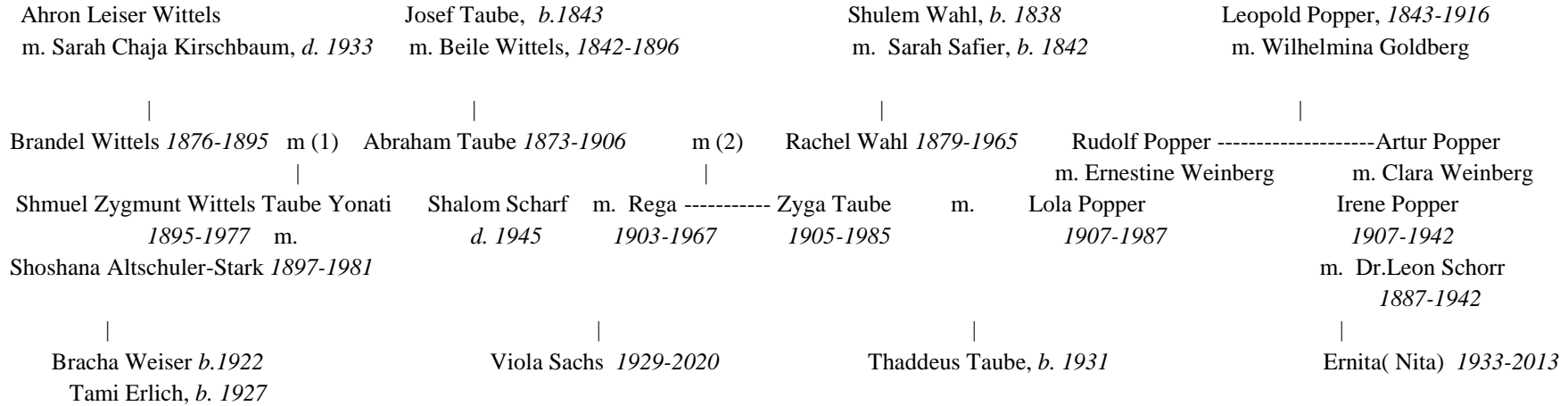
² Irene and Erika were adopted by Rudolf and Ernestine when quite young following the premature deaths of their parents

³ Following the deaths of Leon Schorr and Irene in the holocaust, their child Nita was rescued and adopted by Irene's first cousin Lola and her husband Zyga Taube.

The Poppers came from Moravia to Bielitz in Austrian Silesia, where they married with the Goldbergs who had a Galician background

The next generation moved to Cracow, and two Popper brothers married the Weinberg sisters of Bucarest.

Taube Family Connections



Josef Taube of Lemberg, son of Simon & Mariam Taube of Krystynopol, near Belz.

Josef Taube and his son Abraham Taube married Wittels.

Shulem Wahl of Tarnobrzeg, son of Leiser & Zlate Roisel Wahl of Tarnobrzeg.

The issue of Shulem Wahl and Sarah Safier included the sisters, Blume, Chawa, and Rachel Wahl

see below for further Safier, Wahl, Taube, Gelles relations

Chawa Wahl married David Mendel Griffel of Nadworna. Their daughter Regina Griffel's husband was Dr. David Gelles of Vienna.

Rachel Wahl married firstly Abraham Taube and their children were Rega and Zyga Taube.

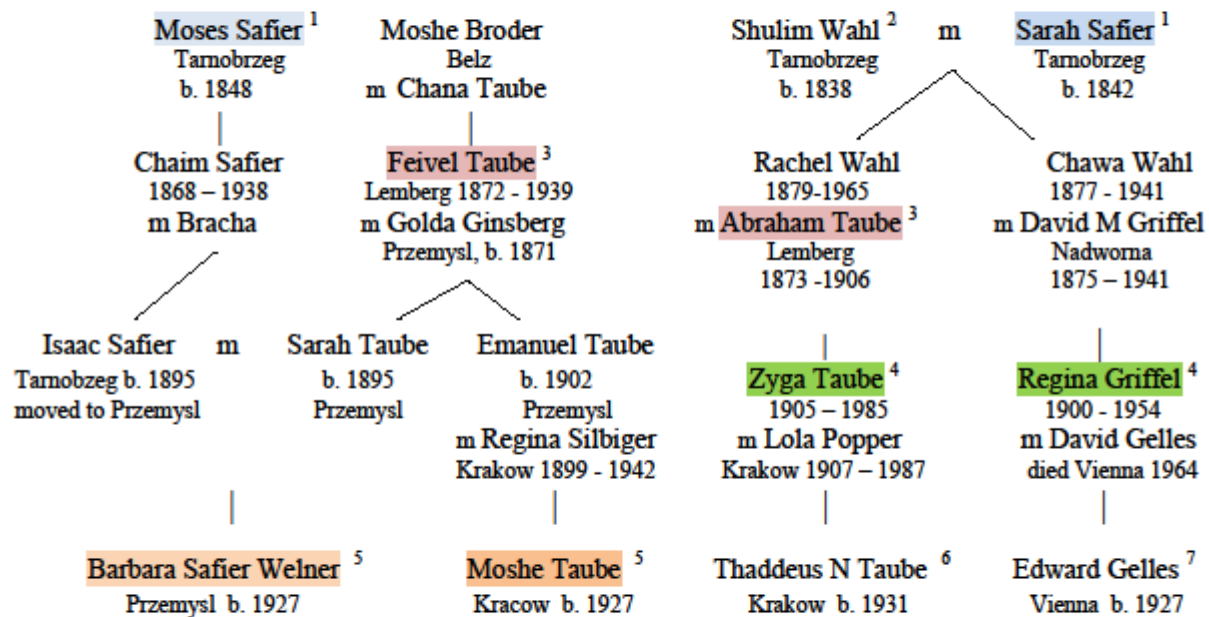
Rachel was widowed and then married secondly Chaim Simon Ohrenstein by whom she had a daughter, Lucia *1910-1988*, who married Count Livio Tripovich *1901-1958*.. Lucia was thus a maternal half-sister of Rega and Ziga Taube.

Shmuel Zygmunt Wittels Taube, from Abraham Taube's first marriage was the paternal half-brother of Rega and Zyga Taube, and adopted the additional Hebrew name of Yonati. His wife Shoshana Altschuler-Stark was the daughter of Baruch and Pesia Leah of Brzezany.

Thaddeus was born in Cracow. His parents escaped with him from Poland shortly before the outbreak of WW2 and ultimately made their home in California. Ernita (Nita) Schorr lost her parents in the Holocaust and was adopted by Lola Popper and her husband Zyga Taube
 Viola Scharf, a first cousin of Thaddeus, married Ignacy Sachs in Brazil and later went to live in Paris

Safier – Wahl – Taube – Gelles

including the lineage of Cantor Moshe Taube



Footnotes

for some details of the above - see Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage* (2006), Chapters 19 – 25, particularly pp 124, 138, 146, 147, 151.

The Chart shows links between family lines, distinguishing some pairs of close cousins

- 1 The Safiers of Tarnobrzeg had numerous links with Wahl, Taube, and Gelles.
- 2 this line of the Tarnobrzeg Wahls goes back to Saul Wahl Katzenellenbogen 1545-1617
- 3 both of the Taube lines on the chart go back to Belz where a Taube ancestor was head of the Jewish community and instrumental in the appointment of the first Rokeach Rebbe of the Belz Chasidic dynasty

Feivel Taube became a property developer in Przemysl and Abraham Taube was a private scholar in Lemberg.

- 4 Zyga Taube, the father of Thaddeus N. Taube, and Regina Griffel, the mother of Edward Gelles, were first cousins from a common Wahl - Safier ancestry.
- 5 Moshe Taube, a Holocaust survivor on Schindler's list, became a distinguished Cantor in America, latterly in Pittsburgh - there is much material about him on the Internet, including an entry on Wikipedia, interviews and recordings of his singing on YouTube, and genealogical material on web sites such as *Geni*, personally corroborated by Moshe (for example "Jewish survivor Moshe Taube Testimony, USC Shoah Foundation, publ.15 May 2012, confirmed that his father (Menachem) Emanuel Taube's 's business partner in Krakow was Avraham Broder of the Belz Chasidim and Moshe Taube's great-grandfather is shown on the above chart as Moshe Broder of Belz)
- 5 Barbara Safier Welner, who was born in Przemysl, is a first cousin of Cantor Moshe Taube, who was born in Krakow. Her father, Isaac Safier, a timber merchant from Tarnobrzeg, moved to Przemysl when he married Sarah Taube, a daughter of Feivel Taube and sister of Menachem Emanuel Taube.
p.s. Barbara Safier Welner and her son Dr Michael Welner have recently taken autosomal DNA tests (2019) and the results support the relationships with Tad Taube and Edward Gelles shown above (see chart B 20 on "Edward Gelles at Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts"



Tad and Dianne Taube with all of Tad's children Sean, Travis, Mark, Zak, Paula, and Judd
(at Travis BarMitzvah)

Children with Gretchen Foote : Mark Randolph, b. 1957
Paula Katherine, b. 1959

with Michele Gadd : Sean David, b. 1979
Juddson Rudolf, b. 1981

with Dianne Marie Panos : Travis, b. 1998
Zakary Gus, b. 2002