

# Gelles and Jaffe family migrations from 16<sup>th</sup> century Prague

## Edward Gelles

### Background Introduction

I have studied my ancestral background for more than 20 years. My work can be seen on the web site of Balliol College, Oxford ( "Edward Gelles at Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts "). It includes references to numerous articles in specialist journals and to six books published between 2006 and 2016, my more recent work including a book of family photographs also being recorded on this web site.

My ancestral connections include historically significant figures from a score of the leading rabbinic families. On my father's Gelles side these include the most important rabbis of the Jaffe and Shapiro lines and on my mother's Griffel side a scion of the Katzenellenbogen rabbis of Padua and Venice called Saul Wahl, who rose to importance in 16<sup>th</sup> century Poland. Among other forebears are distinguished rabbis and scholars of the ancient Chayes family which left Portugal at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. I also have connections, with the Horowitz, Isserles, Hillman, Halpern, HaKohen, Wertheimer, Oppenheim, Mendelssohn, and other families. I have studied the history and genealogy of these families and the complex tapestry of their pan-European migrations. Some of these lineages hark back to Rabbi Salomon ben Isaac of Troyes known as *Rashi* (1040-1105), Rabbi Solomon Luria of Lublin (1510-1574), and Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague known as the *Maharal* (ca.1520 -1609), these three rabbis being of widely accepted descent from biblical times

### Onomastics of the Gelles name

The European migrations of the Jaffe name ( Jafe, Yoffe, etc) are well known. The name of Hebrew origin meaning "beautiful" is recorded over a period in medieval Spain. Forebears of my ancestor Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe were in Italy, notably Bologna, before moving to Prague in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The Gelles name (and variants with somewhat different spelling) found among Jews in central and eastern Europe in the past few centuries is believed to derive from the German medieval girl's name Geyle, meaning the fair or fair haired,

extended in the Yiddish dialect to refer to a person descended from someone with fair or reddish hair. The more speculative onomastics of the name in earlier times is the subject of a separate essay.

### **My paternal Gelles – Jaffe line**

I have traced my Gelles rabbinic line back to Brody in Galicia at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. I am a 6<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Moses Menachem Mendel Levush who married a daughter of a Rabbi S. Gelles and was thereafter referred to as Moses Gelles of the *Brody Klaus* (a member of that prestigious talmudical college). For the first three generations some of the issue of this marriage were known as Gelles and / or Levush. The line came down to my grandfather Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles (1852-1934). The latter's second son was my father, who forsook a rabbinic career for a secular education and became *Doctor Juris* of Vienna University, an advocate in that city, a leading Austrian Zionist and senior member of the Viennese Jewish community.

Before my forebears came to Brody they had followed in the footsteps of Mordecai Jaffe (1530-1612), the Chief Rabbi of Prague, Grodno, and Posen, who was known as the *Levush* after the title of his magnum opus *The Levushim*. The following map and tables show my Gelles line and its family links over a period of 400 years of migration from Prague to Grodno in Lithuania, and from Grodno in a southerly direction to Brody in Galicia, and then to Vienna.

Also shown is a separate branch of the Gelles family who migrated westwards from Grodno to the province of Posen and then on to Germany. At the same time a Jaffe branch moved in a similar general direction from Grodno to Graetz and then to Berlin where they flourished under the name of Itzig. This Itzig family and my Gelles line, both being descendants of the *Levush*, were thus distant cousins. The Itzig made connections with Mendelssohn in Berlin and Arnstein and Eskeles in Vienna

According to the data base of the Museum of the Jewish People, Beit Hatfutsot, in Tel Aviv, the official museum entry for the name GELLES states that “*distinguished 20th century bearers of the Jewish family name Gelles include the Polish-born British Rabbi Benjamin J Gelles and the Austrian attorney and consultant David Gelles* “.

The latter is my father, Dr. David Itzig Gelles of Vienna whose descent in my Gelles - Jaffe ancestral line is detailed below, while the former, Rabbi Benjamin Gelles, is shown on appended chart and table as from a branch of my family that came from Lithuania to the province of Posen, later to Moench-Gladbach in Germany and thence to England.

Entries from the "Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933" Volume 1, page 217, published by K.G. Saur, 1980

**Gelles, David**, Dr. jur., Rechtsanwalt; geb. 24. Dez. 1883 Kudrynca/Galizien, gest. 20. Aug. 1964 Wien; jüd.; *V*: Nahum G., jüd.; *M*: Esther, geb. Weinstein, jüd.; ∞ 1921 Renee Griffel; *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.

**Gelles, Siegfried**, Dr. phil., Rabbiner; geb. 30. Dez. 1884 Krotoschin/Posen, gest. 3. Sept. 1947 London; *V*: Benjamin G. (geb. Litauen), Dayan (ehrenamtl. relig. Richter), Schächter; *M*: Marie Peshe, geb. Tobianski (geb. Litauen); *G*: 2 S, um 1900 Auswand. GB; 1 S (gest. vor 1914 in Deutschland); 1 S u. 1 B (umgek. im Holocaust); 1 B Emigr. USA; ∞ 1915 Lydia Guttmann (geb. 1890 Namslau/Schlesien, gest. 1969), 1939 Emigr. GB mit Familie; *K*: → Benjamin Gelles; *StA*: deutsch. *Weg*: 1939 GB.

1905-13 Stud. Jüd.-Theol. Seminar Breslau, Rabbiner, 1908 Prom. Erlangen. 1913-21 Haupttrabbiner in Lissa/Posen, 1921-38 Rabbiner jüd. Gde. Mönchengladbach u. bis 1933 ReligLehrer an höheren Schulen. Mitgl. *B'nai B'rith*; Nov. 1938 zeitw. Haft. Febr. 1939 Emigr. GB, Unterstützung durch Verwandte u. *Chief Rabbi's Emergency Fund*, Geschäftsf. *Brit. Rabbis Assn.*; im 2. WK einige Mon. Internierung Isle of Man.

*W*: Die pantheistischen Gedanken in Leibniz' „Theodizee“ und Schleiermachers „Reden über die Religion“ (Diss.). 1908. *L*: Kisch, Breslauer Seminar. *Qu*: Arch. Pers. Publ. Z. - RFJI.



**Gelles, Benjamin**, Ph. D., Rabbiner; geb. 2. Nov. 1916 Lissa/Posen; *V*: → **Siegfried Gelles**; ∞ 1946 Annette Esther Broza (geb. 1926 London); *K*: Naomi Zmiri (geb. 1949 London), 1967 IL; Rena Hadary (geb. 1951 London), 1970 IL; Jonathan (geb. 1952 London), Wissenschaftler; David (geb. 1955), **in** höherer Talmud-Akad. tätig; *StA*: deutsch, 1948 brit. *Weg*: 1939 GB.

1926-35 Gymn. Mönchengladbach, 1935-38 Rabbinerseminar Berlin, Predigerdipl.; Febr. 1939 Emigr. GB mit Familie, zunächst beschränkte, später ständige Aufenthaltserlaubnis; Unterstützung durch Chief Rabbi's Religious Fund u. durch Verwandte; 1939-40 Liverpool Talmudical Coll.; Juni 1940 bis Jan. 1941 Internierung Isle of Man u. Huyton. 1941-42 Manchester Talmudical Coll., ab 1941 Univ. of Manchester, 1945 M.A.; 1944-46 Rabbiner Manchester Great Syn., ab 1947 Finchley Syn. London. 1949 Vertr. des Oberrabbiners im *Nat. Marriage Guidance Council*; Mitgl. Hauptgeschäftsvorst. *Mizrahi Org.* für GB u. Irland, 1952 Präs. *Finchley Mizrahi Org.*, 1958-71 stellv. Vors., 1971-77 Vors. *Jew. Marriage Educ. Council* London. 1974 Ph.D. Univ. London. Lebte 1977 in GB.

*W*: Peshat and Derash **in** the Exegesis of Rashi. Diss. phil. 1975; *Qu*: Fb. Hand. - RFJL.

### From Krotoschin and Lissa in the province of Posen

Rabbis Siegfried Gelles and Benjamin Gelles and their families came to England via Germany shortly before the outbreak of the second world war.

		<b>Benjamin Gelles</b>	m	<b>Marie Peshe Tobianski</b>		
<b>Lydia Guttman</b>	m	<b>Siegfried Gelles</b>	-----	<b>Johanna Gelles</b>	m	<b>Julius Kyanski</b>
		1884 - 1947		1871-1940		1872-1954
		<b>Benjamin J Gelles</b>		<b>Bernard Benjamin Gillis</b>		
		Rabbi of Finchley, 1916-2000		Q.C., Circuit Judge, 1905 - 1996		

Benjamin Gelles ( ca, 1845 -1904) came from Lithuania, possibly Kretinga. **Siegfried Gelles** was born in Krotoschin and became Chief Rabbi of Lissa and later Chief Rabbi of Moenchen-Gladbach.

His son **Benjamin J Gelles** was born in Lissa and studied in Manchester, where he was a rabbi before becoming Rabbi of Finchley. Both father and son were distinguished scholars whose writings on religious subjects are still quoted.

**Johanna (Hannchen) Gelles** was a daughter of Benyamin Gelles and Marie Tobianski, and a sister of Rabbi Siegfried Gelles. She married Julius (Cohen) Kyanski in Krotoschin in 1894.

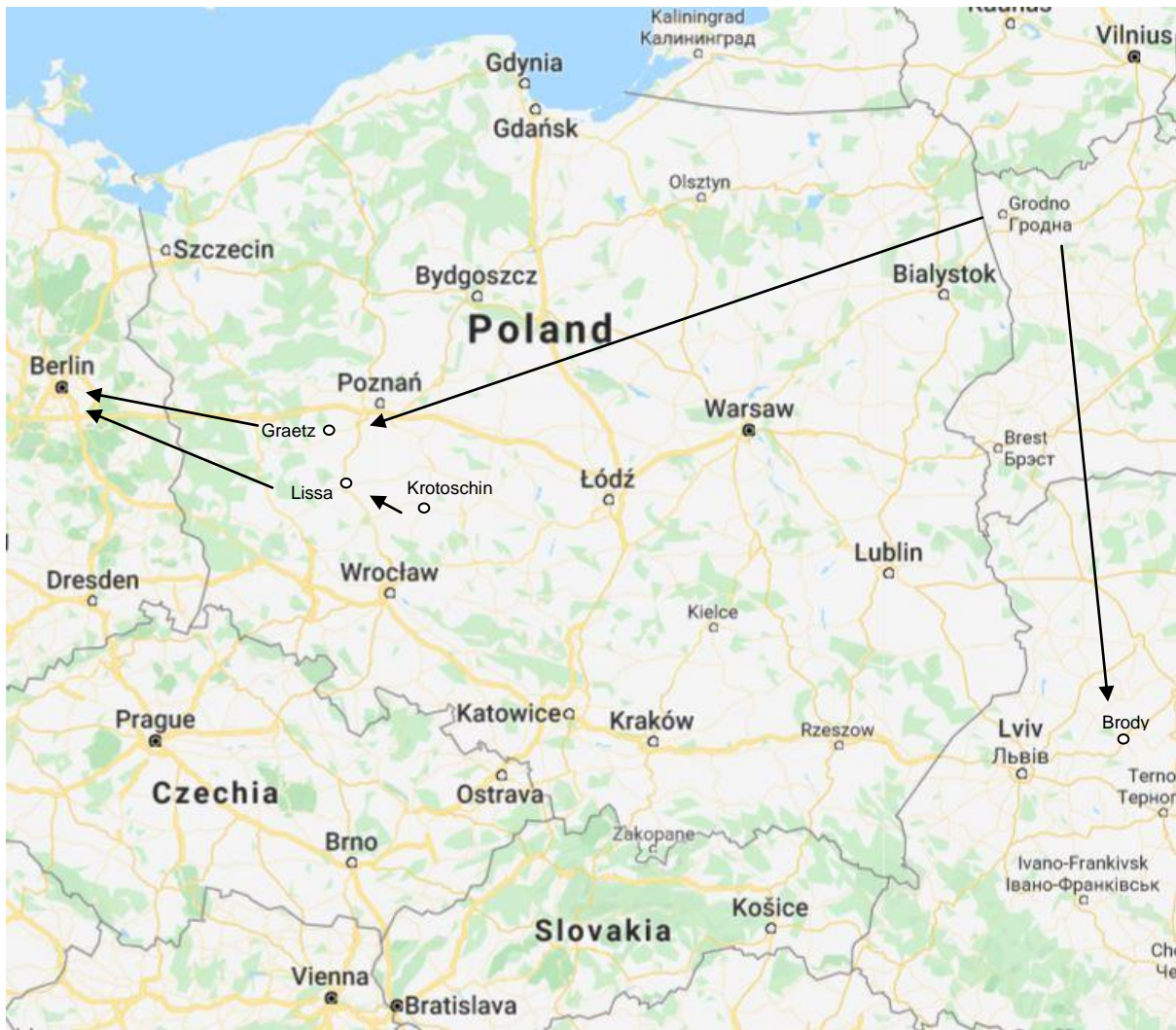
Julius Kyanski (who changed name from his paternal Cohen) was Hebrew teacher and Rabbi in Nottingham and Newcastle

The children of Julius Kyanski and Johanna Gelles included Bernard Benjamin Kyanski, known as **Bernard Gillis** -

He was a member of Lincoln's Inn, became a successful barrister and then a Judge, associated with several newsworthy cases. At one time he was Recorder of Bradford. He was active in Jewish community affairs and national politics – standing as Labour Party candidate in general elections,.

Contacts between the Jewish communities and indeed the Gelles family branches in the province of Posen and in Galicia continued throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the time some of our respective branches became refugees in England contacts had been lost. As I described in earlier essays, such as “ Dr. David Gelles, Advocate and Zionist” and “ Refugees in wartime London and Oxford” , my parents and most of their friends looked to the future as Zionists rather than dwelling on the past. When I finally began the serious study of my ancestral background it was too late to speak to Rabbi Benjamin Gelles but I did find his son Jonathan (Dr Jonathan S. Gelles) and we met for lunch several times. So a tenuous family contact was restored after many generations.

My ancestral family tree has many genealogical connections with chief rabbis of the Jaffe, Shapiro, Horowitz, Chayes, Wahl-Katzenellenbogen, and other families. The aforementioned Gelles branch who came to England from Germany cannot have shared in many of these connections and having parted ways many generations ago will not have a close genetic admixture with my immediate relatives, but academic interests and common traditions of the ancient Gelles rabbinic lineage may well have come down through the ages.



From the time of Mordecai Jaffe (1530-1612), Chief Rabbi of Prague, Grodno, and Posen (Poznan), Jaffe and Gelles families migrated from **Prague to Grodno** and intermarried. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century my Gelles – Jaffe family branch (who wrote their name as Gelles or sometimes Gellis) moved south from **Grodno to Brody** in Galicia (north-east of Lviv, formerly Lemberg). And later some of this branch came **to Vienna**. My grandfather Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles (1852-1934) was born in Galicia and died in Vienna. My father Dr David Itzig Gelles (1883-1964) was an advocate in that city, a Liberal Zionist, and a leading member of Vienna’s Jewish community.

Another Gelles branch went west from **Grodno to Posen** and to near-by towns of **Lissa (Leszno)** and **Krotoschin ((Krotoscyn)**, while some Jaffe who had come from the same direction settled in the little town of **Graetz (Grodzisk)**. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Daniel Jaffe from **Graetz** went **on to Berlin**, adopting “Itzig“ as his family name. In due course the Itzig became prominent Court Jews in Berlin, where they were connected by marriage with the Mendelssohn family.

Gelles from **Krotoschin and Lissa**, including Rabbis Siegfried Gelles (1884-1947) and Benjamin Gelles (1916 2000) also migrated westwards Germany. Later they sought refuge in England, where Benjamin Gelles became Rabbi of Finchley.

A third Gelles branch from **Grodno moved to Jerusalem** at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Rabbi Abraham Israel Gellis (born 1951) is a 10<sup>th</sup> generation Haredi descendant of this family branch



## Migration of rabbinic families in central and eastern Europe over the past few centuries.

Connections between Galicia (Brody), Lithuania (Vilna, Grodno) , Posen ( Graetz, Lissa, Krotoschin), Silesia (Glogau), Austria (Eisenstadt)

<b>Isaac Horowitz</b> Chief Rabbi of Brody, Glogau, and Hamburg, d. 1767	<b>Nathan Nata Shapiro</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of Cracow</b> 1585-1633	<b>Mordecai Jaffe (aka Levush)</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of</b> <b>Prague, Grodno &amp; Posen</b> d. 1612	<b>Samson Wertheimer</b> Court Jew of Habsburg Vienna, Rabbi of <b>Eisenstadt</b> , <b>Chief Rabbi of Hungary &amp; Moravia</b> died 1724	<b>Uri Feivush</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of Vilna</b> <b>&amp; Nasi in Jerusalem</b> d. 1657	
<i>line connected with Rabbi D.I. Gelles of Brody and his descendants</i>		Jaffe of Graetz (near Posen)	<i>Wertheimer descendants connected with Oppenheim, Mendelssohn, Itzig, Eskeles, Gelles, Loewenstein</i>	Meir of Horodycze	
	Lifsha Shapiro m. Israel Halpern of Krotoschin		Isaac of Siemiatycze	Gershon Vilner of Shklov	Uri Feivush of Vilna
Uri Feivuch of <b>Glogau</b>	?	Daniel Jaffe Itzig in Berlin d. 1799	Shmuel Gelles Rabbi of Siemiatycze	daughter married Nathan Nata of Grodno Chief Rabbi of <b>Brody</b> <b>d. 1764</b>	
(1) daughter ? (2) Sarah d. 1774 married →	Shmuel Helman (Hillman) Chief Rabbi of Kremsier Mannheim & <b>Metz</b> d.1764	s Mendel Moshe Mendel Levush →	daughter married Moshe M. Levush aka Moses Gelles of Brody d. ca 1760	daughter m Isaac Chayes of <b>Brody</b> d 1807	
Rabbi Uri Feivush of Lissa and other towns d. 1771	 Rabbi Moshe of Glogau		 Mordecai Gelles of Brody father or uncle of	her brother David Tebele Rabbi of <b>Lissa</b> <b>d. 1792</b>	
	daughter married Moses Gelles	----- →	Rabbi Moses Gelles of Glina and Brody		
	another daughter, Chana, married son of Asher Lemel, Chief Rabbi of Glogau and <b>Eisenstadt</b> , d. 1789	Descendant of Rabbi Isaac Horowitz   →	Rabbi David Isaac Gelles Brody, d. 1868 married Sarah Horowitz		<i>a distant Gelles line in Posen coming from Lithuania</i>
	Ahron Ber Gelles 19 <sup>th</sup> century community leader in <b>Eisenstadt</b>		Nahum Uri Gelles Chief Rabbi of Solotwina 1852-1934		Rabbi Siegfried Gelles b. <b>Krotoschin</b> 1884
			Dr David I Gelles of Vienna 1883-1964		Rabbi Benjamin Gelles b. <b>Lissa</b> , 1916 1 <sup>st</sup> cousin of
			 <b>Edward Gelles</b>		Judge Bernard Gillis. 1905 - 96

## GELLES – LEVUSH LINE

Edward Gelles  
(b. 1927)

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Dr. David Itzig Gelles (1883-1964)  
advocate in Vienna  
m Regina Griffel (a)

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Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles (1852-1934)  
Chief Rabbi of Solotwina nr Stanislau  
m Esther Weinstein (b)

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Rabbi David Isaac Gellis (ca 1790-1868)  
of Glina and Brody  
m Sarah (Horowitz ) (c)

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Rabbi Moses Gelles  
m daughter of Rabbi Moshe of Glogau  
the eldest son of Shmuel Helman  
Chief Rabbi of Metz (d.1764) (d)

|

Mordecai Gelles of Brody  
father or uncle of the above  
and father of Rabbi Samuel Gelles (e)

|

Rabbi Moses Menachem Mendel Levush (f)  
aka Moses Gelles, scholar of the Brody Klaus  
(ca. 1700 -1760)  
m daughter of Rabbi S(hmuel) Gelles (g)

[Levush most probably descendant of Chief Rabbi Mordecai Yaffe of Prague (1530 -1612) known as the Levush after the title of his magnum opus].

- (a) Regina Griffel (1900-1954), daughter of David Mendel Griffel (1875-1941) and of Chawa Wahl (1877-1941), whose family were acknowledged descendants of Saul Wahl (1545-1617), scion of the Katzenellenbogen rabbis of Padua and Venice. Saul Wahl played a leading role in Polish affairs of state and according to legend became *Rex pro Tempore* during the interregnum that preceded the election of Sigismund III as Polish King in 1587 ( but see re- interpretation in my published books ).



Regina's grandfather Eliezer Griffel, head of the Nadworna community, married Sarah Matel Chayes, of the ancient Chayes family that included Isaac ben Abraham Chayes (1538-1617), Chief Rabbi of Prague, whose half sister was the first wife of the famous Rabbi Judah Loew (ca 1520-1609).

- (b) Esther Weinstein (1861-1907), daughter of Rabbi Hirsch Leib Weinstein of Solotwina and his wife Gittel. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Gittel was a daughter of Rabbi Yehuda Ahron Horowitz and his wife Miriam whose forebears were of an old Margolioth rabbinic line. Rabbi Hirsch Leib's father was Rabbi Israel Jacob Weinstein, who was a contemporary of Rabbi Yehuda Ahron Horowitz in Solotwina.
- (c) David Isaac Gellis appears to have married again later in life. He was in his sixties when my grandfather was born in 1852. It is plausible to connect Nahum Uri's mother Sarah to Rabbi Efraim Fischel Horowitz, a half-brother of Rabbi Yehuda Ahron Horowitz, whose father Rabbi Jacob Jokel Horowitz of Bolechow (1772 – 1832) was of the ancient line going back via Rabbi Isaac Horowitz of Hamburg (1715-1767) to the one time head of the Jewish communities in Poland, Pinchas Halevi Ish Horowitz (1535-1618).  
The implications of these Horowitz connections would be that Nahum Uri Gelles and his wife Esther Weinstein were 2nd (half) cousins.
- (d) Rabbi Shmuel Helman (Hillman) of Metz, who was of pan-European significance, allied his daughters to a rabbi of the priestly Katz family, to Katzenellenbogen and Rapaport rabbis and to a son of Chief Rabbi David Mirels Fraenkel of Berlin (1707-1762). Helman was also related by blood and marriage to the eminent Chief Rabbi of Prague. Ezekiel Landau (1713-1793).
- (e) Mordecai Gelles of Brody, a son of Moses Gelles of the Brody Klaus, was the father of Rabbi Samuel Gelles (d.1811). The latter married Sarah Rachel Sheindel, the only daughter of the great Chasidic Rabbi Pinchas Shapiro of Koretz (1726-1791).  
Issue of this Gelles – Shapiro marriage were known by the name of Polonsky from the area of Polonnoye (in present day Ukraine).  
Rabbi Pinchas of Koretz was a direct descendant of the famous Rabbi of Cracow Nathan Nata Shapiro (1585-1633), whose line connects with the medieval Treves rabbis of France and goes back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century biblical scholar and commentator Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac of Troyes, known by the acronym of Rashi. The latter was widely believed to be of royal Davidic descent. My ancestral rabbinic families including the Treves, Luria, Shapiro, Loew, Katzenellenbogen, and Chajes claimed connections to Rashi.

- (f) The marriage of Menachem Mendel Levush aka Moses Gelles of Brody with a daughter of Rabbi S. Gelles produced issue that formed alliances with Ramraz, Margoshes, HaKohen, Fraenkel, and other rabbinic families as well as the afore-mentioned connections with the families of Rabbis Shmuel Helman of Metz and Pinchas Shapiro of Koretz. The use of both names Levush and Gelles continued for two or three generations after the above-mentioned Gelles– Levush marriage. Earlier Levush or Yaffe and Gelles had met and married in Grodno and other towns in Lithuania and their lines go back to 16<sup>th</sup> century Prague, where a scion of the ancient Katz (HaKohen) married a daughter of Judah Loew and Mirl Chayes-Altschuler, leading to marriages of their progeny with Horowitz, Chayes, Gelles, Helman and others.
- (g) The father-in-law of Menachem Mendel Levush recorded as Rabbi S. Gelles, was probably Rabbi Shmuel Gelles of Siemiatycze, who was a great-grandson of Chief Rabbi Uri Feivush of Vilna. In old age, Uri Feivush became head of the Ashkenazi community in Jerusalem with the title of *Nasi* (circa 1650), a title that had been borne in the preceding generation by Rabbi Isaiah Halevi Ish Horovitz of Prague, Frankfurt, and Safed (d.1627).

## References

- See my earlier essay on Gelles - Jaffe connections on my web page ( File A 25)
- Jaffe article in Jewish Encyclopedia (1904)
- Beit Hatfutsot, Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv, database
- **Dr. David Itzig Gelles** (my father) see especially my books,  
 “An Ancient Lineage” (publ. 2006), Chapters 26 and 27  
 “Family Connections: Gelles-Shapiro-Friedman” (publ. 2009), Chapter 6 ( pp 85 – 112).
- **Rabbi Benjamin J Gelles** ( Rabbi of Finchley) and others  
 “An Ancient Lineage”, Chapter 36, p. 277, note 14 and Chapter 38, pp 317- 318
- “Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933”  
 (publ. K.G. Saur, 1980) has entries for Dr David Gelles and Rabbi Benjamin J Gelles
- “Hofjuden und Kulturbuerger. Die Geschichte der Familie Itzig in Berlin”  
 by Thekla Keuck (publ. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Goettingen, 2011)

## **Files on < Edward Gelles at Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts >**

Reflections on my ancestral background (A 1)

Connections between Brody in Galicia and towns in Lithuania, Silesia, and Posen (A 3)  
(includes pedigree of my grandfather Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles)

Grodno in Lithuania and the migration of some Gelles and Jaffe families (A 6)

(includes reference to an old Gelles family branch who went from Grodno to Jerusalem)

Tracing my Gelles line back to Levush and Jaffe (A 20)

(discusses descent of some Levush from Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe of Prague)

Wahl and Jaffe to Gelles and Griffel (A 21)

Wahl and Shapiro ancestral connections (A 22)

etc

## **References to Judge Bernard Gillis**

### **Bernard Benjamin Gillis (1905 - 1996) - Genealogy - Geni**

[www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com) › *people* › *Bernard-Gillis*

[www.2harecourt.com](http://www.2harecourt.com) › *about-us*

### **Chambers of Lord Justice Sebag Shaw and Judge Bernard Gillis QC.**

(E.G. note : Lord Justice Sebag Shaw's father was Harry Sochaczewski called after the little town of that name in central Poland. Its Jewish community was annihilated in WW2)

### **Appointment of Bernard Gillis, Q.C. to be Recorder of Bradford**

1958 newspaper cutting by Courtesy of Bradford Local St



### **The Guardian from London, Greater London, England**

[theguardian.newspapers.com](http://theguardian.newspapers.com) › *newspage*

28 May 1996 - One rare oasis of moderation and mercy was the court of *Judge Bernard Gillis QC*, who has died aged 90.. "Bennie" Gillis was the son of a north .."