Some links between Chasidic Families in Eastern Galicia

[ABD = Av Beit Din i.e. Head of Rabbinical Court / Chief Rabbi]

The Ephrussi share descent from Moses of Chelm (shown on the following chart).

R. David Isaac Gellis  m  Sarah Narayov
R. Hirsch Leib Weinstein  m  Gittel ABDb of Solotwina

Josef Lustman  m  Lea Skole

R. Aaron Leib Laufer  m  Chaje Beile Nadworna

R. Nahum Uri Gelles  m  Esther Weinstein
ABDb of Solotwina

R. Hersh Lustman  m (2) Mariem Jente Laufer
ABDb of Boryslaw

Chaja Sara Kretz  m (1) Efraim Fischel Kalman Gelles  m (2) Esther Lea Lustman
in Lvov 1906  1879- ca1920  Boryslaw

Aaron Leib Gelles
Josef Gelles
Sarah Gittel Gelles

Ruben Ephrussi  m  R Hersh Lustman  m (1) Blume Wilf
ABDb of Choloyow  ABD of Boryslaw  ABD of Drohobycz

R. Isaak Ephrussi  m  Rifka Lustman
Moses Ephrussi

see Edward Gelles
Ephemeral & Eternal
Shaker Publ, Maastricht, 2010

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FOOTNOTES

Chief Rabbi Hersh Lustman of Boryslaw was the father-in-law of Rabbi Isaak Efrussi and of Efraim Fischel Gelles. Hersch Lustman married firstly, Blume, a daughter of Rabbi Yeshaya Wilf of Drohobycz, who according to Meir Wunder was a highly regarded saintly rabbi, and secondly Mariem Jente Läufer, a daughter of Rabbi Aaron Leib Laufer of the Nadworna Chasidic dynasty (the family name was rendered as Laufer or Leifer).

A daughter of the second marriage, Esther Lea, married Efraim Fischel Gelles. As can be seen from the above chart, their children, Aaron Leib, Josef, and Sarah Gittel were named after their great-grandparents. Sarah Gittel is clearly the Gittel or Giza given in my book *Ephemeral and Eternal – a brief life of Josef Gelles*.

My immediate paternal Gelles line goes back to early 18th century Brody to a scholar of the Brody Klaus known as Moses Gelles. The Efrussi rabbis of Cholyow are listed by Meir Wunder in *Meorei Galicia*, Volume 1, 260-267 and Volume 6, 118-119. The Efrussi were also rabbis in Brody where they established the “Efrussi Synagogue”. Wunder particularly mentions Rabbi Yehoshua Heshcl Efrussi (ca 1780-1852) who became ABD of Cholyow and had many followers. He was succeeded by Rabbi Ruben Efrussi, whose son Isaak married Rifke Lustman. Other Efrussi rabbis include Rabbi Mordecai Efrussi (ca 1860-1930) and Rabbi Yekusiel Efrussi (1880-1935), both Chasidic rabbis in Lvov. These Galician rabbis appear to have had a common ancestor in Rabbi Moses (Katzenellenbogen) of Chelm, a grandson of Saul Wahl, shown on a following chart.

As the 18th century drew to a close, changing social conditions and economic opportunities led many Galician Jews to Austria and Hungary, the Ukraine, to Odessa, and later to Baku. Edmund de Waal’s best-selling book, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, traces his Efrussi (Ephrussi) line back to Berdichev and Odessa. Charles Joachim Ephrussi of Berdichev and his son Leon Ephrussi married ladies from Lemberg (Lvov) and Brody – a long way back from their progeny’s later wealth and social connections in Vienna and Paris.

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