Addendum to

Edward Gelles, " Ephemeral and Eternal – Josef Gelles, a brief life" (Shaker Publishing, Maastricht, 2010)

TELEFON ZAOSZCZĘDZA CZAS I PIENIĄDZET KARTKA POCZTOWA DIN nel de KO NOMIN DATS LANDI Inon Al

(the above image was kindly sent to me by Ron Laby)

Postcard addressed to Josef Gelles in Boryslaw concerning his candidature for the vacant post of Chief Rabbi of Solotwina following the death of his grandfather, Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles Usually a son or even a grandson – if suitably qualified – was appointed without challenge but in the event the post went to a distant relative, Rabbi Yoel Babad

> Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and Rabbi Yoel Babad were both descendants of Rabbi Isaac Krakower, Chief Rabbi of Brody and head of the Babad family through the latter's son Jacob Yollis Babad of Brody who died in 1748

Translation of Postcard

(translated by Y.Marmorstein)

From Isak Schneid in Solotvina

Solotvina, Eve of the Holy Sabbath [of the Torah reading] Shemoth 4. 1. 1935

Greetings to my dear friend Josef

I just received your card and in reply I inform you that Rabbi Hemerling of Yezipol, a relative of Akiva Hemerling, arrived here this morning as a candidate [for the Solotvina rabbinate], and tomorrow – on the holy Sabbath – he will deliver his candidacy speech. Close to 20 rabbis have sent their applications to the community [leadership] and four of them have been chosen to deliver a speech on a Sabbath. The first is the rabbi who arrived today. Naturally, the names of the others have not been publicised – the community [leadership] is keeping the information secret for the time being.

You should write immediately to the above-mentioned Rabbi of Yezipol saying that he ought not to encroach on your territory. The Rabbi of Perehinska is also a candidate – his name is Babad. I have heard that the son-in-law of the tzadik of Monastritch is another candidate – his name is Hager, from Stanislau.

When are you coming here? See to it that you get some backing from the authorities – then you will surely be successful. Send me your reply immediately. Also on the matter about which I spoke to you, I have heard from people in the community [leadership] that they are more scared of your protest than of Rabbi Uri [Tenenzaft] 's protest. From this you can understand that you are like a bone in their throat ...

Let me have a clear reply stating what you are doing and when you intend to come

With love from your loyal friend