

Blume Wahl and Lazer Low had nine children, the fifth being Dr Abraham Low. He was born in Strasbourg and 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 Tripcovich of an old Croatian family who were major ship owners in Trieste. Many years after Lucia’s death I corresponded with the Tripcovich family, including the composer Baron Raffaello de Banfield–Tripcovich 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 < Edward Gelles > (website of the Edward Gelles Collection. Balliol College Archives
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- [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 - Chaper 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 cousin.
JJ - Chapter 17 – They met in Trieste. (Christians and Jews in an ethnic melting pot).