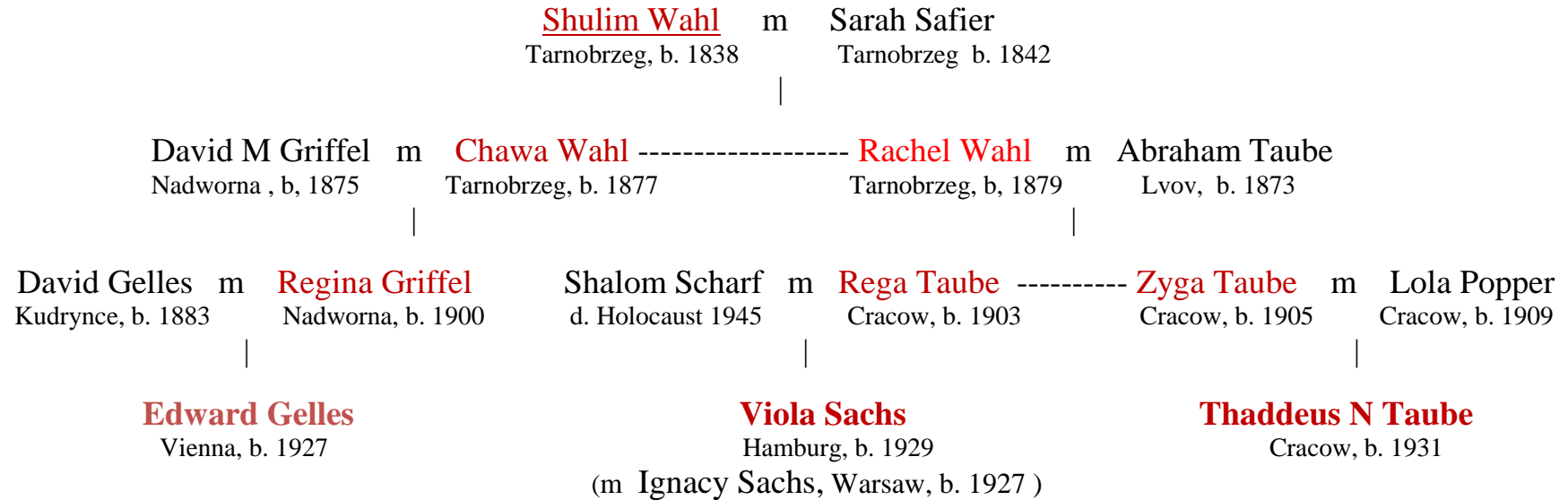


Viola Sachs and cousins



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.

Notes and References.

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.

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 Celine Sachs-Jeantet.

The voluminous bibliographies of Viola and Ignacy are available on the internet. Little biographical detail has been published (Ignacy Sachs, La Troisieme Rive (Bourin Editeur, Paris 2007).