

WAHL of Tarnobrzeg and WOHL of Cracow

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My maternal grandmother's WAHL family lived in Tarnobrzeg, to the north-east of the old Polish capital city of Cracow, where the related WOHL family flourished.

Both families claimed descent from Saul Wahl Katzenellenbogen of Padua (1545–1617), the son of Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen of Venice and his wife Abigail Jaffe. When our ancestor Saul went to Poland from Padua his new friends called him "Wahl", meaning "the Italian" in their usage. Saul Wahl's progeny were referred to by the name of Wahl and / or Katzenellenbogen for some time. This and the origins of the Wohl and closely related Shor families are discussed in my first book "An Ancient Lineage" (Vallentine Mitchell, London, 2006) pp 119-121.

As shown on the appended chart, Salomon Meir Wohl married the Cracow heiress Feigla Holzer. He took over the running of the Holzer family bank which had opened a branch in Vienna before the first world war.

According to J. Bunford Samuel, this Meir Wohl was supposed to have an unassailable pedigree going back to Saul Wahl (The History of the Samuels, Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1912). I followed up the Cracow family records available on *Jewish Gen* web sites and met some of the Wohl descendants.

Salo and Feigla's eldest child was Sarah (Sidonie) who married Bendet (Benedikt) Suesser of a prominent Cracow family. Their daughter Maryla and my uncle Zygmunt Griffel were the parents of my first cousin Eric Griffel. There was a Suesser family connection with Chayes of Drohobycz and Kolomea (see my chart "Chayes connections").

Details of Sidonie Wohl's siblings and their families can be found in my above-mentioned book, where I also refer to the connections of the Samuel family.

Wahl and Wohl Family Connection

