6th generation descendant of the scholar Moses Gelles of Brody and of Chief Rabbi Shmuel Helman of Metz, a 7th generation descendant of Chief Rabbi Isaac Horowitz of Hamburg and 13th generation descendant of Pinchas Halevi Ish Horowitz of Prague and Cracow, who married Miriam, the sister of Cracow Chief Rabbi Moses Isserles and became President of the Council of the Four Lands. Edward Gelles is a 15th generation descendant of Chief Rabbis Judah Loew, Isaac Chayes, and Mordecai Jaffe of Prague and of Chief Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen of Venice, who was the father of Saul Wahl. Several of the ancestral lines go back to the scholar Rashi of Troyes (11th century) and to the Kalonymos of Narbonne (8th century) and are considered to have claims to Davidic descent.

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