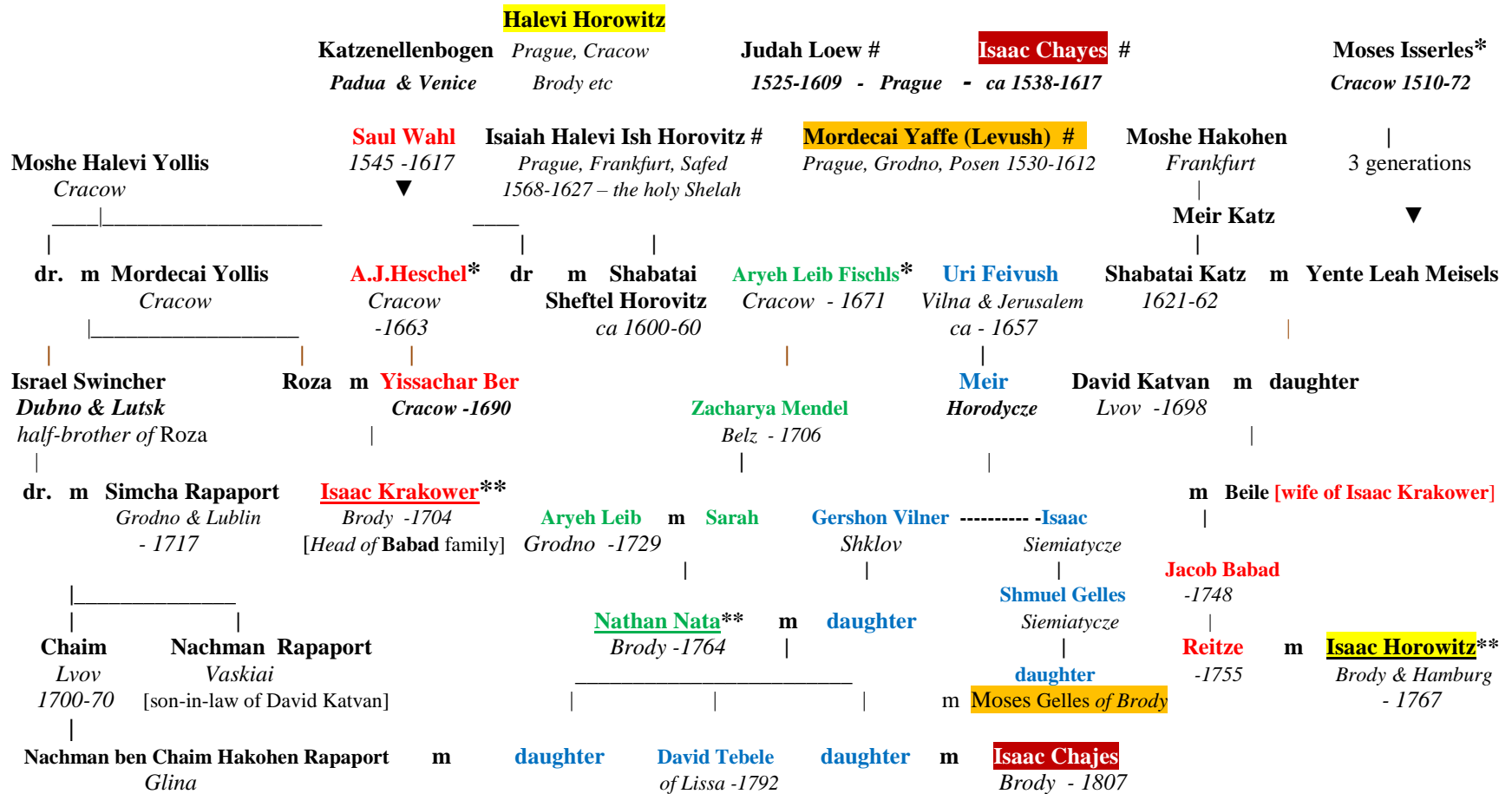


Family Connections of Chief Rabbis of Prague, Cracow, and Brody

Chief Rabbis of Prague = # Chief Rabbis of Cracow = * Chief Rabbis of Brody = **



Footnotes

Isaiah Halevi Ish Horovitz, known as the *holy Shelah* after the title of his famous work, was a *mehutan* (in-law) of Moshe Halevi Yollis of Cracow. Isaiah Horovitz had a daughter Nechama who is generally believed to have married Rabbi Chaim Feivush. Steinschneider in *Ir Vilna* has the suggestion that Uri Feivush of Vilna, who traveled to the Holy Land around 1650, may perhaps have been this son-in-law of the *Shelah* and “inherited” his title of *Nasi* on becoming head of the Ashkenazi community in Jerusalem. Uri Feivush’s grandson Gershon Vilner of Shklov was the father-in-law of Natan Nata ben Arie Leib of Grodno. Natan Nata’s son was Rabbi David Tebele of Lissa while a daughter married Rabbi Nachman of Glina, son of Chief Rabbi Chaim Hakohen Rapaport of Lvov. Natan Nata came to Brody from Lithuania and followed Jacob Jokel Horowitz of Brody and Glogau (died 1755) in the post of Chief Rabbi. He was in turn succeeded by Jacob Jokel’s son Isaac Horowitz who later moved to Hamburg.

David Tebele Efrati, a descendant of Rabbi David Tebele of Lissa, states in *Toldot Anshei Shem* that Rabbis Gershon Vilner and Zvi Hirsch Witteles Landau were brothers-in-law. The latter was connected with the family of Yissachar Ber of Cracow and his wife Roza Yollis. According to Louis Lewin in his *Geschichte der Juden in Lissa*, Rabbi Israel Swincher belonged to the family circle of Gershon Vilner. Israel Swincher (of Swienuch) was the (step)-brother of Roza Yollis. Gershon Vilner was an uncle of Shmuel Gellies and probably a kinsman of Isaac Krakower’s sons. These sons included Joshua Heschel Babad, Jacob Babad, and Mordecai Yollis Babad. Jacob Babad’s daughter Reitze married Isaac “Hamburger” Horowitz.

Isaac Horowitz was a descendant of the Judah Loew of Prague and of his first wife, Mirl Altschuler. She was the sister of Isaac Chayes, son of Rabbi Abraham Chayes, who was known as Eberel Altschuler. Judah Loew and his brother-in-law Isaac Chayes were Chief Rabbis of Prague in the late 16th century. Isaac ben Abraham (ca 1538-1617) was an ancestor of the Isaac Chajes, who died in 1807 and was head of the Brody community. This latter fourth Isaac Chajes of the line was married to a sister of Rabbi David Tebele of Lissa.

My father, Dr. David Isaac Gelles of Vienna, second son of Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and grandson of Rabbi David Isaac Gellis, was a direct descendant of Moses Menachem Mendel Levush known as Moses Gelles, the latter name being that of his father-in-law, Rabbi S. Gelles and *Levush* indicating descent from Rabbi Mordechai Yaffe of Prague (1530-1612), the author of the *Levushim*. This Moses Gelles, a scholar of the Brody *Klaus* in the mid-18th century, was the progenitor of our Gelles line which is connected by marriage to Shmuel Hillman (died 1764) the Chief Rabbi of Metz and to Isaac Horowitz of Brody and Hamburg going back to Judah Loew and Eberel Altschuler of Prague.

My mother, Regina Griffel, was the daughter of David Mendel Griffel and Chawa Wahl, and grand-daughter of Eliezer Griffel of Nadworna and Sarah Matel Chajes of Kolomea. Chawa Wahl was according to family tradition a descendant of Saul Wahl, scion of the Katzenellenbogen Rabbis of 16th century Padua and Venice. Sarah Matel’s father Isaac Chaim Chajes came from a branch of the ancient Chajes line.