

Connections between Edward Gelles and David Griffel



Edward Griffel (1904 – 1959)

father of David Griffel (1946–2021) and uncle of Edward Gelles (b.1927)

My name is Edward Gelles and my parents were Dr. David Gelles and Regina Griffel. My first cousin David Griffel was the son of my maternal uncle Edward Griffel and Susan Manson. The appended chart shows several generations of Gelles, Griffel, and Manson ancestors.

Edward Gelles and David Griffel

Chasidic dynasty founder

Israel Friedman of Ruzhin, d. .1850

m Sarah Efrari, d. 1847

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Gittel Tova Toyba Friedman

m R Ysef Manson

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R. Chaim David Manson , d. 1932

m Udel Gottesman

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R. Israel Manson, d. 1961

m Yente D Horodetzky, d 1955

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Susan Manson
1911 -1978

m

Edward Griffel
1904 – 1959

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Regina Griffel
1900 – 1954

m

Dr David Gelles
1883 - 1964

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David Griffel
1946 – 2021

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Edward Gelles
1927 -

David M Griffel

m Taube Zeisler

Eliezer Griffel d.1918

m Sarah Chayes,d.1940

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David M Griffel, d. 1941

m Chawa Wahl, d. 1941

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Friedman - Gelles connections
see charts in preceding essay

R Moses Gelles (Gelles of Brody)

m descendant of Helman & Shapiro

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R. David Isaac Gelles, d.1868

m Sarah Horowitz

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R. Nahum Uri Gelles ,d. 1934

m Esther Weinstein, d. 1907

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In the 19th and 20th centuries these families had connections with Chasidic leaders in central and eastern Europe.

Our families were dispersed in the years leading up to the Second World War. I was born in Vienna and spent most of my life in London while David Griffel was born in New York and lived in the Boston area. We were alumni of Oxford University and MIT respectively.

David Griffel's academic and business career is outlined in MIT publications. I last saw his parents - Edward and Susan - in New York in 1954. I was on my way back to London from the University of California at Berkeley where I had done some post-doctoral research following my years at Balliol College.

The appended chart indicates some distant connections between Susan Manson's ancestor, the Chasidic leader Israel Friedman of Ruzhin and his descendants with some of my paternal Gelles rabbis.

I mentioned these Friedman connections in a magazine article twenty years ago. It was entitled " My Mother's People ," from which an extract is appended .

My paperback " Family Connections : Gelles – Shapiro - Friedman" dealt in particular with my Gelles grandfather and his association with Grand Rabbi Israel Friedman of Czortkow, the eponymous grandson of the dynasty's founder.

My recent essay "Edward Gelles – Some Notes on my Ancestral Background" includes two charts dealing with Gelles - Friedman connections.

As for Susan Manson's Friedman connection, an extract from the Ruzhin, Israel Encyclopaedia deals with the genealogy of the founder's three sons-in-law. The data bearing on Susan

Manson`s ancestry from this work are compatible with those from other sources.

Susan`s grandfather, Chaim David Manson (1858 - 1932) was *Admur* of the Chasidic Jews in Brody. And his father R. Yosef Manson was a son-in-law of Israel Friedman of Ruzhin.

The immediate Griffel ancestors I share with my cousin David were our grandfather David Mendel Griffel and his father Eliezer Griffel of Nadworna who had a strong affiliation with the Chasidic Hager dynasty. The families were connected by marriage and the Griffels prayed in the nearby synagogue of the Hager of Ottonya.

Hager of Vishnitz and Israel Friedman of Ruzhin were also related as mentioned in the extract from the Ruzhin, Israel Encyclopedia:

“Israel of Ruzhin had three sons-in-law: menahem mendel hager of *vizhnitz, a noted Ḥasidic leader, and Joseph Manzon and David Halperin, who belonged to wealthy families. Joseph Manzon's son Ḥayyim david (1850–1932), the *admor* of Brod, was severely persecuted by the local *maskilim*, while another son, levi isaac (1847–1917), author of *Bekha Yevorakh Yisrael*, had his center in Vienna. Two sons of Ḥayyim David acted as *admorim*, dov baer in Brad, who perished in the Holocaust, and israel (1879–1961) in Kalisz, who emigrated to the United States in 1939. shalom (1856–1940) the son of David Halperin was *admor* in Vaslui in Romania; he had a phenomenal memory, and had an extensive knowledge of secular subjects. He was succeeded by his son Ḥayyim dov (1876–1957), who after residing in Vaslui and Bucharest emigrated to Erez Israel in 1956. The last leader of the Vaslui dynasty was jacob joseph solomon (b. 1902), who settled in Tel Aviv.”

From Edward Gelles – My Mother's People (2002)
in Sharsharet Hadarot Vol.16 No.4

I found data for my uncles Zygmunt and Edward Griffel on the Internet and in the Nadworna records of the Baron Hirsch Cemetery on Staten Island. Zygmunt's wife Maryla was the granddaughter of the banker Salomon Meir Wohl of Cracow and Vienna. In this way, the Wohls of Cracow are linked to the Wahls of Tarnobrzeg. Edward's wife Susan Manson was connected with the Friedman Hasidic dynasty. So apparently was my father, Dr. David Gelles, at least according to his obituary notice in a Viennese newspaper.

References

Edward Gelles, **An Ancient Lineage** (Vallentine Mitchell , 2006)
including chapters on several Griffel lines and their related families

Edward Gelles, Family Connections : **Gelles - Shapiro - Friedman**
(Shaker publishing, 2009)

Religious and social connections , particularly in early 20th century Vienna

Papers of Edward Gelles, Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts web site :

Edward Gelles, **Facets of my Family History**

Chapter 6 - Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and Chasidic Connections

Chapter 13 - Some Griffel Cousins

Edward Gelles, **Maternal Family Connections of Edward Gelles (B 23)**

Lines of descent from Griffel, Wahl, Chayes, etc to Edward Gelles and cousins

Edward Gelles, **Some Notes on my Ancestral Background (A 45)**

The Shapiro connection of Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and the Chasidic Grand Rabi Israel Friedman of Czortkow

Edward Gelles and two distant cousins showing some Horowitz and Friedman connections