

Descent from Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt and Krakow

Edward Gelles

The family of Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt is believed to have stayed in Nürnberg for a while in the 15th century before continuing their migration to Prague and then to Krakow. They flourished in Poland for several centuries as merchant bankers, rabbis, and community leaders. Efraim Fischel died in Krakow around 1470.

His eponymous descendant Rabbi Efraim Fischel of Lwow was ABD (*Av Beth Din*) of Lukow. He died in 1653. His wife was Gitel Shrentzel. Their daughter Jutta married Arye Leib Klausner who was known after his father-in-law as Rabbi Arye Leib Fischls, and as “der Hoiche Rebbe Leib“. He became Chief Rabbi of Krakow where he died in 1671. His and Jutta Fischel’s progeny were linked by marriage with the descendants of Abraham Joshua Heschel, the preceding Chief Rabbi of Krakow who died in 1663. The latter was a direct descendant of Saul Wahl and the Katzenellenbogen Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice.

I have drawn charts to show some ancestral family connections to several Chief Rabbis of Krakow. They include the two above-mentioned as well as Chief Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro (d.1633) who was a grandson of Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro of Grodno. I also have a connection with Israel Isserlein, the father of Krakow’s famous Rabbi Moses Isserles (d.1572).

My maternal Griffel line goes back to Chief Rabbi David Halevi Segal of Lwow, son-in-law of Chief Rabbi Joel Sirkes of Krakow (d 1640). The latter was known by the first name of his mother Sirka Jaffe and also as the “Bach”, an acronym of the title of his magnum opus.

The web site <Edward Gelles at Balliol College> has a section headed “Some Family Charts” for which this note shows connecting threads :

Ancient rabbinical ancestry of Edward Gelles

Descent of Edward Gelles from Rabbis Judah Loew and Isaac Chayes of Prague
Naftali Hirsch Katz of Frankfurt, Shmuel Helman of Metz, and Gelles of Brody

Descent from Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt and Krakow

Some descendants of Moshe Altschuler and Chana Treivish

Wide ranging family connections *

References

Encyclopedia Judaica, entry for “Fishel “

Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt and the early history of his family in Krakow

Byron L Sherwin, *Sparks amidst the Ashes*. OUP 1997 (pp 53-54, 72-73)
including family descent from Efraim Fischel of Frankfurt to Jacob of Ludmir .

Neil Rosenstein, *The Lurie Legacy*. Avotaynu 2004 (p.306)

Chart of the Main Luria Line from Rabbi Solomon Luria of Lublin (d. 1573) through his daughter Valentina who married Efraim Fischel of Brest, the grandfather of Rabbi Efraim Fischel of Lwow and Lukow

Edward Gelles, *An Ancient Lineage*. Vallentine Mitchell 2006

Edward Gelles, *The Jewish Journey : A Passage through European History*.
I.B.Tauris 2016 / Bloomsbury

* Note

Efraim Fischel of Brest (thence to Jerusalem, d. 1589) married Valentina Luria

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Zvi Hirsch Fischel of Lukow (d. 1626)

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Efraim Fischel of Lwow, Rabbi of Lukow (d. 1653) married Gitel Shrenzel

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Yutta married **Chief Rabbi Arye Leib Fischls** of Cracow (d. 1671)

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Efraim Fischel of Ludmir (d. 1719), Head of the Council of the Four Lands
married a granddaughter of Chief Rabbi Naftali Hirsch Katz of Frankfurt and Posen

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Jacob of Ludmir (d. 1730) married Hinde Katzenellenbogen