

### Migration of rabbinic families in central and eastern Europe over the past few centuries.

Connections between Galicia (Brody), Lithuania (Vilna, Grodno) , Posen ( Graetz, Lissa, Krotoschin), Silesia (Glogau), Austria (Eisenstadt)

<b>Isaac Horowitz</b> Chief Rabbi of Brody, Glogau, and Hamburg, d. 1767	<b>Nathan Nata Shapiro</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of Cracow</b> 1585-1633	<b>Mordecai Jaffe (aka Levush)</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of</b> <b>Prague, Grodno &amp; Posen</b> d. 1612	<b>Samson Wertheimer</b> Court Jew of Habsburg Vienna, Rabbi of <b>Eisenstadt</b> , <b>Chief Rabbi of Hungary &amp; Moravia</b> died 1724	<b>Uri Feivush</b> <b>Chief Rabbi of Vilna</b> <b>&amp; Nasi in Jerusalem</b> d. 1657	
<i>line connected with Rabbi D.I. Gelles of Brody and his descendants</i>		Jaffe of Graetz (near Posen)	<i>Wertheimer descendants connected with Oppenheim, Mendelsohn, Itzig, Eskeles, Gelles, Loewenstein</i>	Meir of Horodycze	
	Lifsha Shapiro m. Israel Halpern of Krotoschin		Isaac of Siemiatycze	Gershon Vilner of Shklov	Uri Feivush of Vilna
Uri Feivuch of <b>Glogau</b>	?	Daniel Jaffe Itzig in Berlin d. 1799	Shmuel Gelles Rabbi of Siemiatycze	daughter married Nathan Nata of Grodno Chief Rabbi of <b>Brody</b> <b>d. 1764</b>	
(1) daughter ? (2) Sarah d. 1774 married →	Shmuel Helman (Hillman) Chief Rabbi of Kremsier Mannheim & <b>Metz</b> d.1764	s Mendel Moshe Mendel Levush →	daughter married Moshe M. Levush aka Moses Gelles of Brody d. ca 1760		
Rabbi Uri Feivush of Lissa and other towns d. 1771	Rabbi Moshe of Glogau		Mordecai Gelles of Brody father or uncle of	David Tebele Rabbi of <b>Lissa</b> , <b>d. 1792</b> <b>(Gelles cousin )</b>	
	daughter married Moses Gelles	----- →	Moses Gelles of Glina and Brody		
	another daughter, Chana, married son of Asher Lemel, Chief Rabbi of Glogau and <b>Eisenstadt</b> , d. 1789	Descendant of Rabbi Isaac Horowitz   →	Rabbi David Isaac Gelles Brody, d. 1868 married Sarah Horowitz		<i>a distant Gelles line in Posen coming from Lithuania</i>
	Ahron Ber Gelles 19 <sup>th</sup> century community leader in <b>Eisenstadt</b>		Nahum Uri Gelles Chief Rabbi of Sopotwina 1852-1934		Rabbi Siegfried Gelles b. <b>Krotoschin</b> 1884
			David Itzig Gelles of Vienna 1883-1964		Rabbi Benjamin Gelles b. <b>Lissa</b> , 1916
			 <b>Edward Gelles</b>		

**The onnections of my extended family present in microcosm a picture of the mobility of the Ashkenazi rabbinat in this period.**

There are numerous examples of rabbis moving several hundred miles from one appointment to another or of arranged marriages between distantly located families. Frequent changes in political frontiers, economic cycles, and demographic changes in Jewish communities are part of the background to these migrations

Both of my paternal great-grandmothers were from the Horowitz line that goes back to Rabbi Isaac Horowitz of **Hamburg** and then via Pinchas Halevi Ish Horowitz to forebears who acquired their family name from the little town of **Horovice** near **Prague**. I am a seventh generation descendant of Isaac Horowitz, who became in turn Chief Rabbi of **Brody, Glogau, and Hamburg**.

I am also a sixth generation descendant of Rabbi Shmuel Helman, who had ancestral Halpern, Shapiro, and Katzenellenbogen connections. He became Chief Rabbi of **Kremsier, Mannheim, and finally of Metz**. His family was based in **Glogau** in Silesia, with connections to **Lissa** and **Krotoschin** in the province of **Posen**. Marriages of Helman's granddaughters took them from **Glogau** to **Brody** in Galicia and to **Eisenstadt** near **Vienna**.

I am a sixth generation descendant of Moses Menachem Mendel Levush, a noted scholar of the prestigious **Brody Klaus**, who adopted the name of Moses Gelles on marriage to a daughter of Rabbi Gelles of **Siemiatycze**. The latter was a descendant of Uri Feivush ben David of **Vilna** in Lithuania who travelled to **Jerusalem** in his old age where he became head of the Ashkenazi community with the title of *Nasi*.

Moses Levush aka Moses Gelles of Brody was believed to be a direct descendant of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe of **Prague, Grodno, and Posen**, who was known as *the Levush*, after the title of his *magnum opus*. My Gelles line – in the footsteps of the Levush – had earlier connections in the area of **Grodno** in Lithuania and in the **province of Posen**, and earlier still in **Prague**.

Our distant connections include the Jaffe family from **Graetz** near **Posen** who were also believed to be descendants of the Levush, and whose Daniel Jaffe moved to **Berlin**, adopting the family name of Itzig. He and some of his progeny became Court Jews (in charge of financial affairs) to the Prussian Kings. They were linked by numerous marriages to the Mendelssohns, and also extended their connections to **Vienna** through marriages with the Eskeles and Arnstein Court Jews of that city. Descendants of the great Viennese Court Jew, Samson Wertheimer had many links in **Eisenstadt** near **Vienna** and in Hungary and Moravia that connect with some of the other communities mentioned above