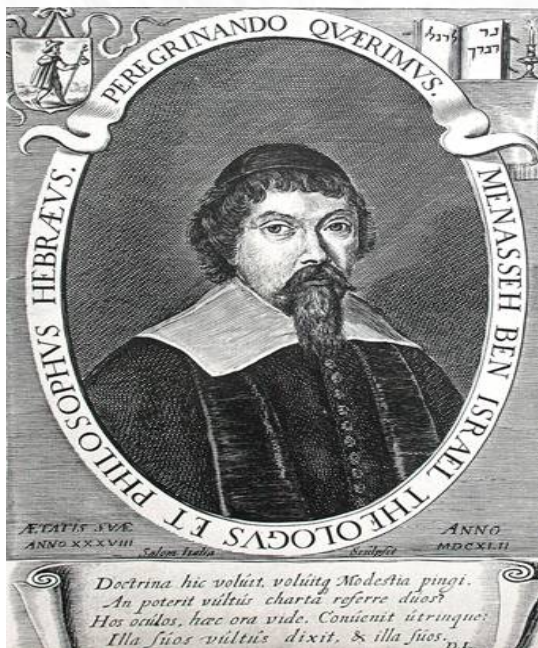


The Western Sephardim

הספרדים המערביים

A minority within a minority within a minority



Harold Zvi Rabbie -- צבי רבי

Los Gatos, California

JewishGen ID 7570

<http://rabbie.royalwebhosting.net>

IAJGS August 2016

Seattle, Washington

Agenda

- Who are the Western Sephardim?
- Expulsion from Spain and Portugal
- Sources and resources
- Ancestry since 1450
- Sephardim in the Netherlands
- Sephardim in England
- Sephardim in the New World
- Holocaust

Three Definitions of Sephardi

Definition	Countries of Origin	Hebrew	Why are they called Sephardim?
"Pure" Sephardim	Spain, Portugal "S & P"	ספרדים טהורים ט"ו	2 nd century rabbis identified ספרד as Spain
Mizrachi - from Muslim world	Iraq, Iran, Maghreb, Muslim Asia (excl. Turkey)	עדות המזרח	Follow Sephardic synagogue rite מנהג ספרד
Non-Ashkenazi	Yemen, India, Ethiopia, Georgia etc.		Jurisdiction of Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi

- עובדיה א כ Obadiah 1:20

וגלת החל הזה לבני ישראל אשר כנענים עד **צֶרְפַּת** וגלת ירושלים אשר ב**סִפְרָד** ירשו את ערי הנגב

And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto **Zarephath**; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in **Sepharad**, shall possess the cities of the south.

Two Sub-Groups of Spanish and Portuguese Sephardim

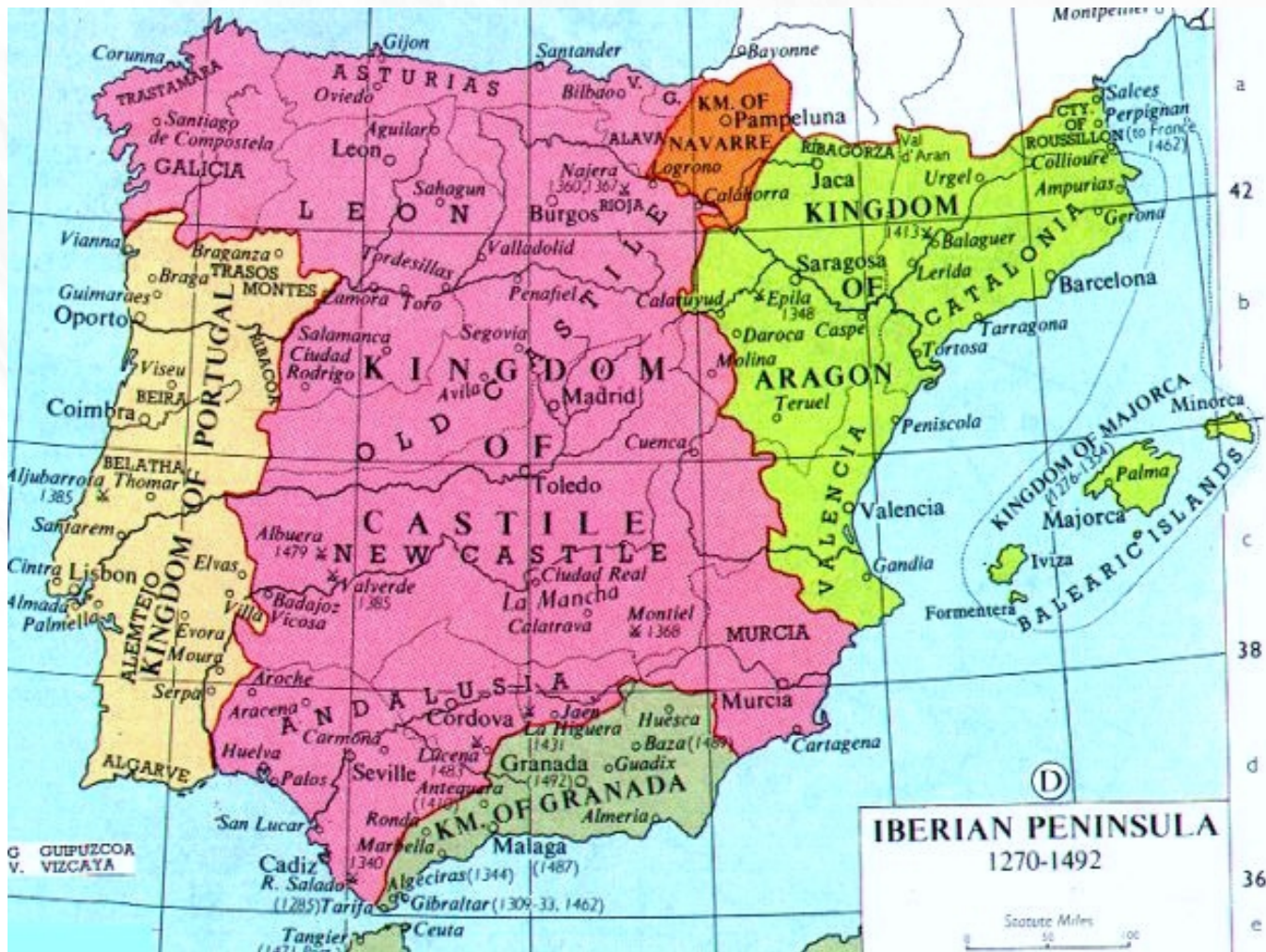
	<i>Eastern Sephardim</i>	<i>Western Sephardim</i>
<i>Countries of Dispersion</i>	Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Sarajevo, Jerusalem	Netherlands, England, Caribbean, Americas Antwerp, Hamburg, Copenhagen
<i>Original Language</i>	Ladino, Jaketia Judæo-Español ספניולית	Portuguese
<i>Judaic Practice</i>	Emigrated, did not convert	Formerly conversos, marranos, nuevos cristianos, אנוסים

Brief History of the Iberian Peninsula

- Muslim conquest of Spain
 - 711 CE
- Kingdom of Granada
 - 1252-1492
- Marriage of Ferdinand (Aragon) and Isabella (Castile) unified Spain - 1469
- Conquest of Kingdom of Granada
 - 2nd January 1492
 - Ends Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula



Iberian Peninsula 1270-1492



The Golden Age in Spain

Poets, Physicians and Philosophers



Yehuda Halevi
יהודה הלוי
1075-1141
לְבִי בְּמִזְרַח
וְאֲנֹכִי בְּסוּף מִמְּעָרָב



Solomon Ibn Gabirol
שלמה אבן גבירול
1021-1070



Moses Maimonides
רמב"ם
1135-1204
מורה נבוכים
משנה תורה

The End of Jewish Life in Spain

- Growing antisemitism during 14th and 15th centuries
- Spanish inquisition established 1478
 - Investigate secret Jewish practices among converts
 - Punishment by *auto-da-fé* (act of faith)
- Alhambra decree 31 March 1492
 - Jews and Muslims must convert or leave by 31 July
 - 12 days before 9 Av
- Decree rescinded 15 December 1968

Sephardi Migration after 1492



Jews in Portugal

- Many Spanish Jews converted to Catholicism up to 1492
- 93,000 Jews left Spain for Portugal in 1492
- December 1496, forced conversion of all Jews in Portugal
- April 1506, 1900 “Jews” massacred in Lisbon
- 1536 Portuguese Inquisition
- *Genetic study (2008) - 20% of DNA in today's Iberian population is of Jewish origin*

Limpieza de sangre



King Manuel I

Some Published Sources

- Jewish Encyclopedia 1906
 - www.jewishencyclopedia.com
- A History of the Marranos - Cecil Roth 1932
 - rabbie.royalwebhosting.net
- Americans of Jewish Descent - R. Malcolm Stern 1960
 - americanjewisharchives.org
- Hebrews of the Portuguese Nation - Miriam Bodian 1999
- Stephen Birmingham - The Grandees - The Story of America's Sephardic Elite, 1971
- American Journal of Human Genetics, Dec 2008
 - www.cell.com/ajhg
- List of Dutch Jews who perished during World War II -
Nederlandse Staatscourant van Donderdag, 1949-1950
 - dutchjewry.org 101,467 records

Generation

0

Portugal
Turkey

Joseph Cohen Belinfante
b: 1450 Lisbon, Portugal
d: Aft 1526 Dalmatia, Croatia
Baptised
1526
Went from Portugal to Dalmatia

1

Dalmatia

Meir Cohen Belinfante

Descendants of Joseph Cohen Belinfante

2

Joseph Cohen Belinfante
d: Aft 1596

3

Meir Cohen Belinfante
b: Split, Croatia = Spalato, Dalmatia
Sofer - law scroll writer

4

Serbia

Joseph Cohen Belinfante
b: Abt 1620 Belgrade, Serbia
d: Bef 1688 Belgrade, Serbia
Cantor (hazan), Belgrade synagogue

5

Netherlands

Meir Hayyim Belinfante
b: 1653 Belgrade, Serbia
d: Sep 1701 Amsterdam
Theology teacher, author
1689
Left Belgrade for Amsterdam

Reina Aben Danon
b: 1652 Belgrade, Serbia
m: 1676 Belgrade, Serbia
d: 21 Oct 1724 Amsterdam

6

Zaddik Cohen Belinfante
b: 1676 Belgrade, Serbia
d: 17 Dec 1750 Amsterdam
Rabbi, preacher, Talmudic author

Ester Lea Cohenet Persiano
b: 1675 Amsterdam
m: 13 May 1696 Amsterdam
d: 28 Nov 1727 Amsterdam

Joseph Cohen Belinfante
b: 1678 Belgrade, Serbia
d: 27 May 1759 Amsterdam
Theologian and librarian

Paloma (Minjana) de Mingana
b: Belgrade, Serbia
m: 25 Feb 1701/02 Amsterdam
d: 23 Aug 1747 Amsterdam

7

Moseh (Moses) Cohen Belinfante
b: 1702 Amsterdam
d: 20 Nov 1775 London
Theologian in the Hague and London

Sara Guerman
b: Abt 1701 Amsterdam
m: 13 Jul 1727 Amsterdam
d: 17 Jan 1767 The Hague

Selomoh (Salomon) Cohen Belinfante
b: 1716 Amsterdam
d: 1748 Amsterdam

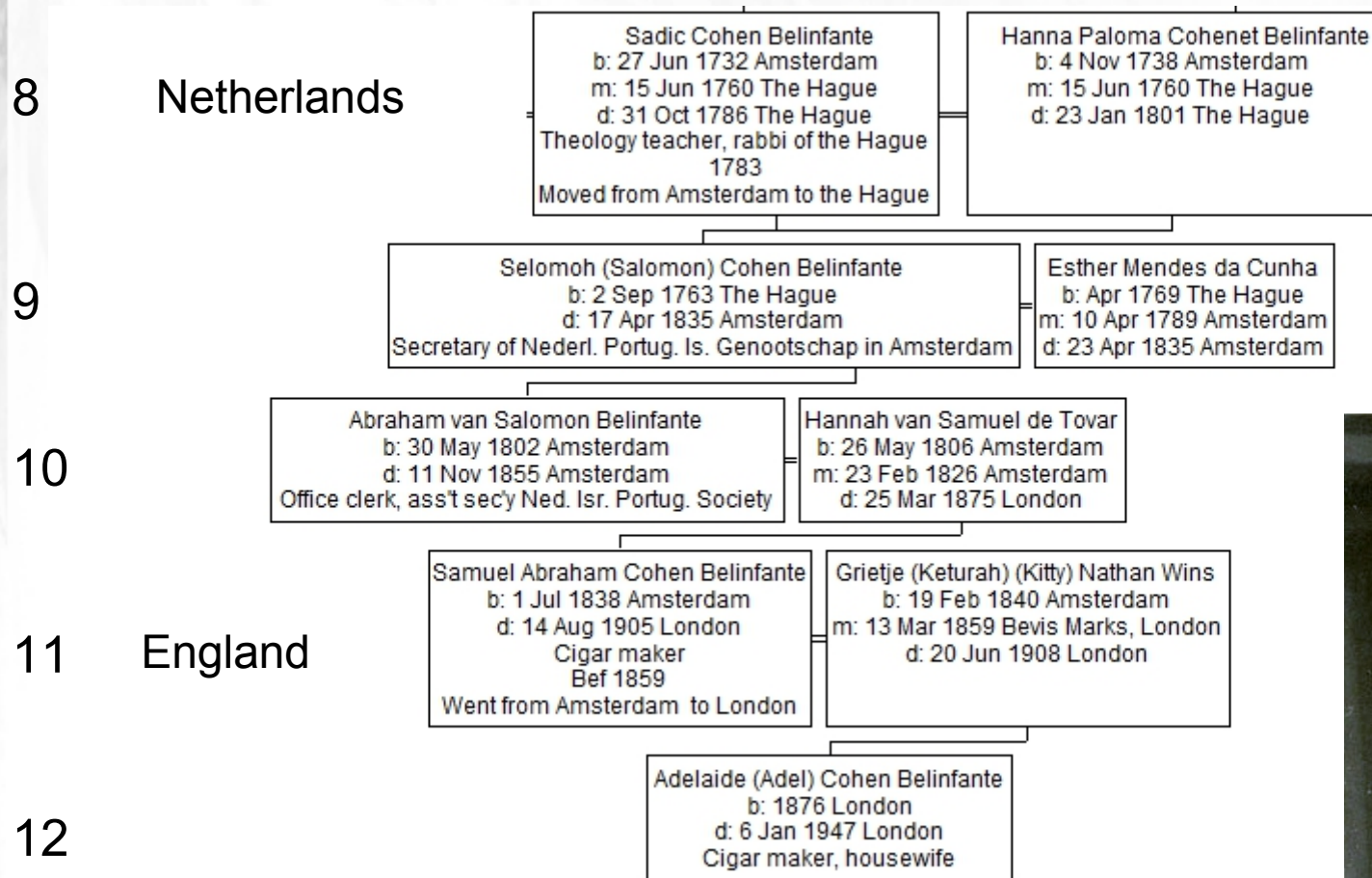
Ribca da Silva Solis
b: 1711 Amsterdam
m: 3 Apr 1735 Amsterdam
d: Abt 1748 Amsterdam

8

Sadic Cohen Belinfante
b: 27 Jun 1732 Amsterdam
m: 15 Jun 1760 The Hague
d: 31 Oct 1786 The Hague
Theology teacher, rabbi of the Hague
1783
Moved from Amsterdam to the Hague

Hanna Paloma Cohenet Belinfante
b: 4 Nov 1738 Amsterdam
m: 15 Jun 1760 The Hague
d: 23 Jan 1801 The Hague

Descendants of Joseph Cohen Belinfante – continued



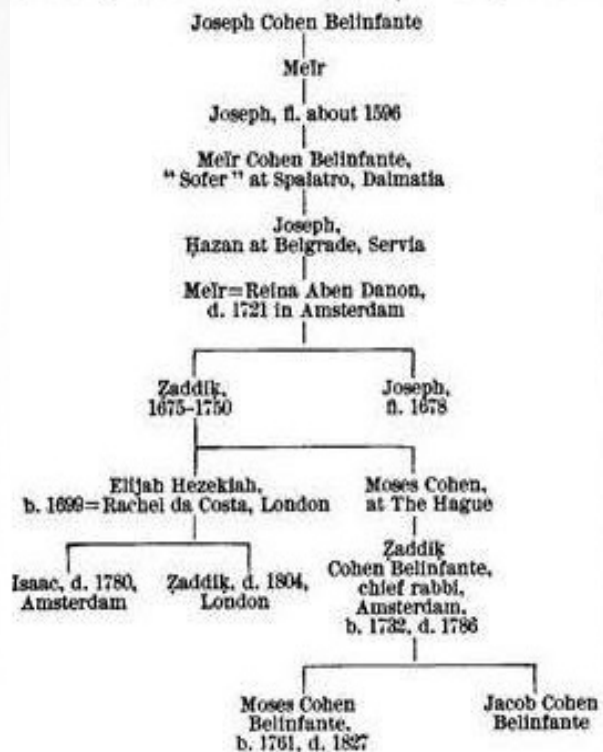
Jewish Encyclopedia 1906

Belin
Belkovsky

THE JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA

660

BELINFANTE FAMILY: A Sephardic Jewish family who trace their ancestry to Joseph Cohen



Belinfante, a fugitive from Portugal to Turkey in 1526. The family included a number of writers and divines, the most eminent of the latter being Zaddik Cohen Belinfante, chief rabbi of Amsterdam toward the end of the eighteenth century. The annexed sketch-pedigree gives the chief members of the family up to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *American Hebrew*, Feb. 25, 1881.

J.

BELINFANTE, ISAAC COHEN: Poet and preacher at the great synagogue 'Ez Hayyim, Amsterdam; died in that city Sept. 7, 1781; son of Elijah Cohen Belinfante. In an approbation to the work "Dibre David" he enumerates the following political works written by him which are still extant in manuscript in the Bodleian Library (Nos. 5 and 6 of the old Michael collection) and in the Montesinos library at Amsterdam: (1) "Shefer Tehillim" (The Beauty of the Psalms), poems on the preachers of Amsterdam; (2) "Ateret Paz" (The Golden Crown), a collection of 87 satirical poems ("Paz" = 87); (3) "Berit Kehunat Yizhak" (Alliance of the Priesthood of Isaac), poems in honor of his friends; (4) "Abne Segullah" (Precious Stones), a collection of poems dedicated to some fellow-writers; (5) "Siah Yizhak" (The Prayer of Isaac), a catalogue of printed books and manuscripts, with extracts and biographical notes on the authors, especially the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish writers of London and Amsterdam. A specimen of his work was published by Gabriel Polak in "Ha-Maggid," 1869, Nos. 10, 11.

Belinfante's printed works are: (1) "Minhat Nedabah" (A Free Offering), a poem in honor of the poet David Franco Mendes (Amsterdam, 1764); (2) "Gilah we-Ranen" (Joy and Singing), an epithalamium (Amsterdam, 1777); (3) "Kinah" (Lamentation), elegies on the destruction of the Temple, inserted in the prayer-book "Mishmerot ha-Layelah" (Amsterdam, 1768); (4) two sermons in Portuguese, "Sermão do Nada Moral" (Amsterdam, 1761); "Sermão Moral Sobre o Temor Heroyco" (Amsterdam, 1767); and a number of Hebrew odes ("shirim"), which are printed in other works written and published at Amsterdam.

©JewishEncyclopedia.com

From one of his poems, "Kinyan Torah" (The Possession of the Law), it appears that Belinfante wrote many works on Talmud, grammar, ethics, cabala, and philosophy. He revised the prayer-book of the Sephardic rite printed at Amsterdam, 1726, by S. Rodrigues Mendes, and other works printed in that city.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Fuenn, *Keneset Yisrael*, p. 596; *Ha-Karmel*, vi., No. 32; *Ha-Maggid*, 1869, Nos. 10, 11; Kayserling, *Bibl. Españ.-Portug.-Jud.* pp. 29, 31, 90; M. Roest, *Bel ha-Sefer*, p. 330. Amsterdam, 1868; Fürst, *Bibl. Jud.* i. 99; *Catalog der ... Rosenthal'schen Bibliothek*, i. 284 (list of occasional poems).

I. BR.

BELINFANTE, MOSES BEN ZADDIK HA-KOHN: A Judæo-Dutch journalist, translator, and writer of school-books; born at The Hague Sept. 24, 1761; died there June 29, 1827. He founded in 1806 the first Judæo-Dutch paper, "Sulamith," devoted especially to the interests of the Jewish community of Amsterdam. This paper was, however, discontinued in 1808. Belinfante published the following works: (1) "Israelitischer Almanach,"

32 small vols., 1796-1827; (2) a translation from Hebrew into Dutch, of Shalom Cohen's Hebrew catechism, "Shorashe Emunah," Amsterdam, 1816; (3) "Geschenk noor de Israelitche Jeugd"—an elementary work, 4 vols., The Hague, 1809-34; (4) "Parabelin"—parables and legends extracted from the Talmud, 2 vols., Amsterdam, 1822; (5) "Moda' li-Bene Binah" (A Friend of the Intelligent Youth); a Hebrew reader, recast from Moses Philippsohn's German work, with a Dutch translation and additions, Amsterdam, 1817; (6) The Portuguese prayer-book, translated into Dutch in collaboration with T. Saruco, 4 vols., The Hague, 1791-93.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Fürst, *Bibliotheca Judaica*, p. 99; Winter and Wünsche, *Jüdische Literatur*, iii. 873; Zeltin, *Bibliotheca Hebraica*, p. 60.

S.

I. BR.

More Sources

- Randall Belinfante - Belinfante Family Odyssey: Around the World from Portugal - HaLapid Winter 2004
 - cryptojews.com
- Fred (Frits) Belinfante (1913-1991), Gresham Oregon
- Bob Drilsma (1928-2010), Antwerp Belgium
- Personal website: <http://rabbie.royalwebhosting.net>
 - 4,500 individuals

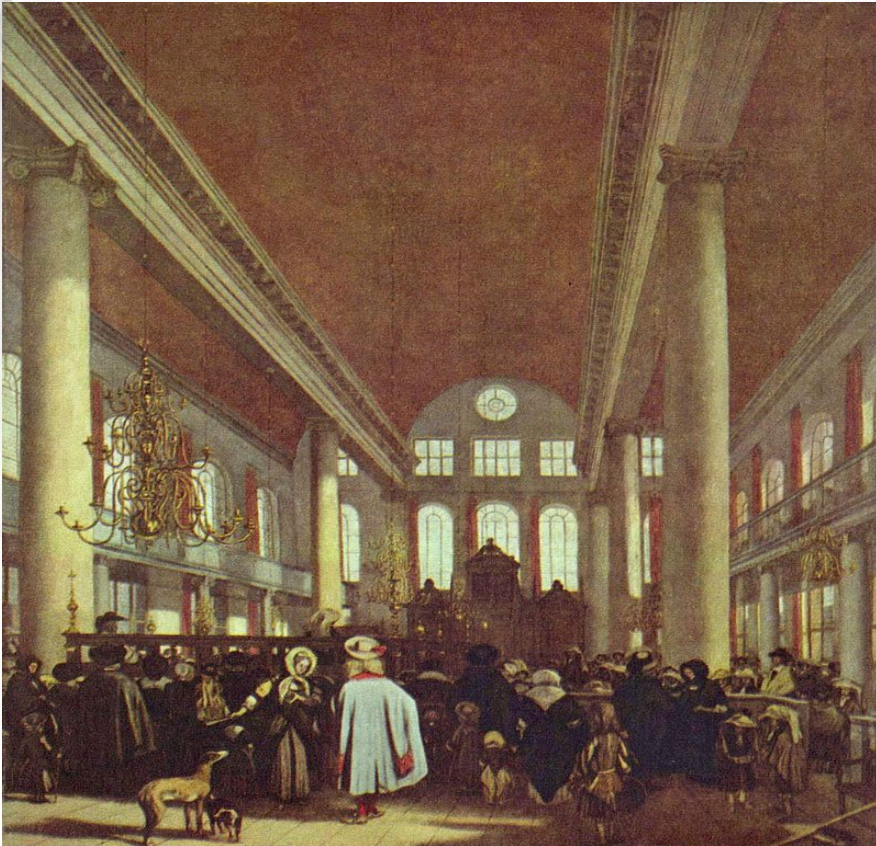
Ancestral Sephardic Surnames

- Montanhês
 - Montanjees
- Saruco
- Lopes Cardoso
- da Silva Curiel
- da Silva Abenatar
- Athias
- Treves
- Persiano
- Belinfante
- de Tovar
- Mendes da Cunha
- Jessurun Alvares
- Hiero
- da Silva (y) Solis
- Aben Danon
- de Minjana
- Belgrado

Brief History of Jews in the Netherlands

- 1477 Netherlands falls under the rule of Spain
- 1585 Netherlands becomes independent
- 16th Century Protestant reformation
- 1593 First conversos arrive in Amsterdam
- 1614 Ouderkerk aan de Amstel Sephardi cemetery established
- 1642 Muiderberg Ashkenazi cemetery
- 1675 Portuguese Synagogue built in Amsterdam₁₇

Portuguese Synagogue (Esnoge) Amsterdam (Mokum)



1680



Today

Rembrandt van Rijn



The Jewish Bride 1665



Rembrandt's House
Jodenbreestraat 4
Amsterdam

Some Dutch Sephardim



Baruch Spinoza
1632-1677
Philosopher
Excommunicated



Abraham Lopes Cardozo
1914-2006
Chazzan - Shearith Israel, NYC

Family Members



Frieda Belinfante (1904-1995)
Conductor, Orange County
Philharmonic, California



Judith Belinfante (1943-)
Dir. Jewish Historical Museum
Member of Dutch Parliament

Beth Haim Portuguese Cemetery Ouderkerk aan de Amstel



1614



Today

Ashkenazim in the Netherlands

- Origins in Germany, Poland, Bohemia etc.
- 1642 Muiderberg Ashkenazi cemetery established
- 1648 Chmielnicki massacres in Poland
- 1745 Empress Maria Theresa expels Jews from Prague
- 1795-1814 Napoleonic rule
 - Civil rights for Jews
 - Mandatory adoption of surnames

Menasseh ben Israel

מנשה בן ישראל

- 1604 Manoel Dias Soeiro b. Madeira, Portugal
- 1610 family moves to Amsterdam
- 1655 persuades England to re-admit Jews



Brief History of Jews in England

- 1066 Jews arrive with the Norman conquest
- 1144 William of Norwich blood libel
- 1190 York massacre
- 1255 Little St. Hugh of Lincoln blood libel
- 1290 Edict of Expulsion, all Jews leave



King Edward I

Resettlement of Jews in England

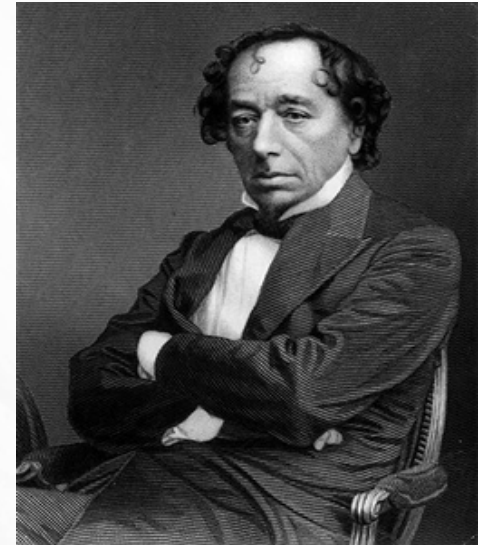
- 1655 Oliver Cromwell re-admits the Jews : Portuguese Sephardim from Amsterdam
- 1657 Velho Beth Haim Sephardi cemetery
- 1701 Bevis Marks Sephardi synagogue
- 1725 Nuevo Beth Haim Sephardi cemetery
- 1853 Sandys Row Dutch Ashkenazi synagogue
- 1881 Tsar Alexander II of Russia assassinated, leading to mass immigration of Eastern Ashkenazim
- 1933 German, Austrian, Czech refugees



Sephardim in England



Sir Moses Montefiore
(1784-1885)



Benjamin Disraeli
(1804-1881)



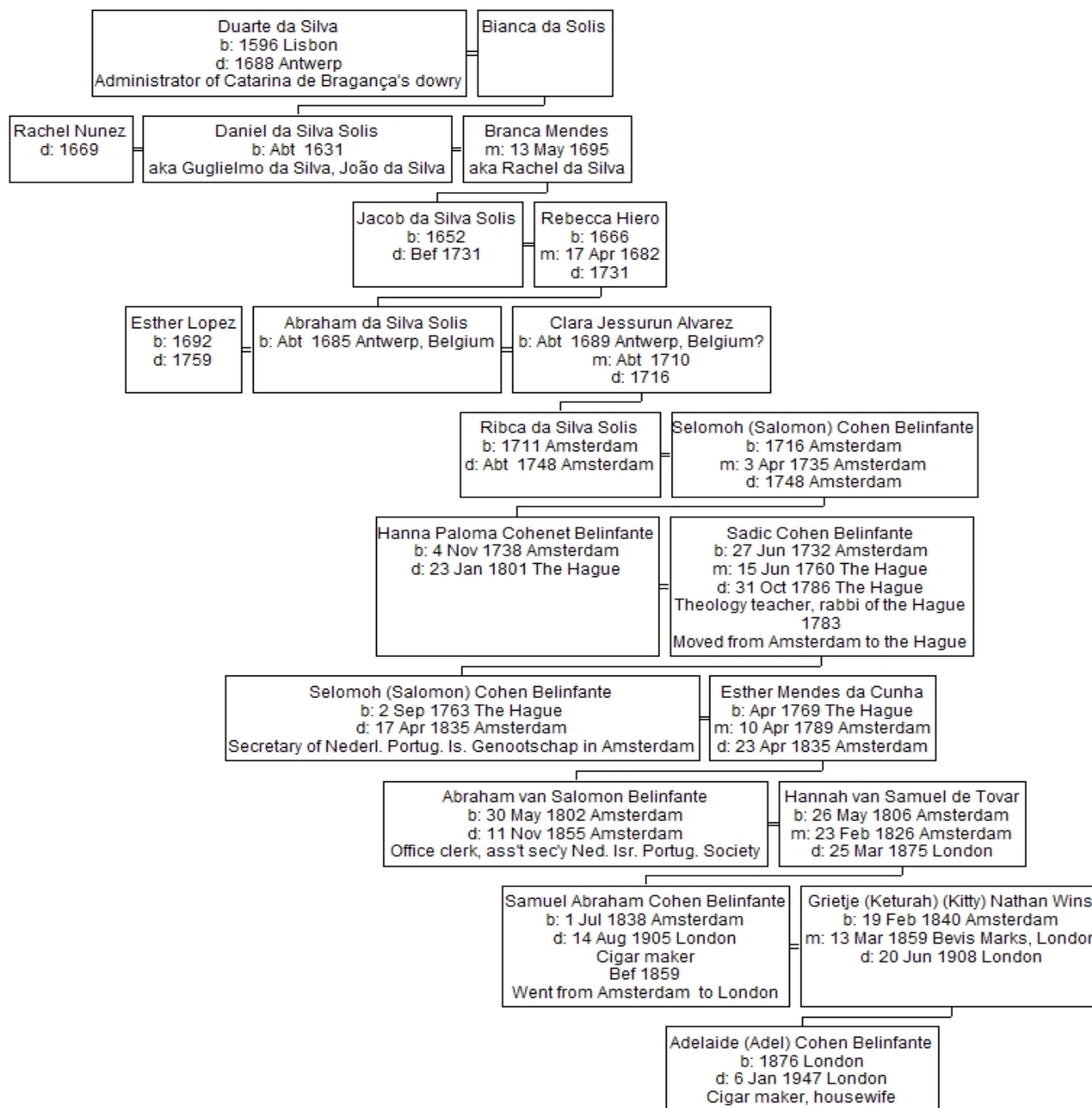
Bevis Marks Synagogue,
London 1701

English Royal Marriage

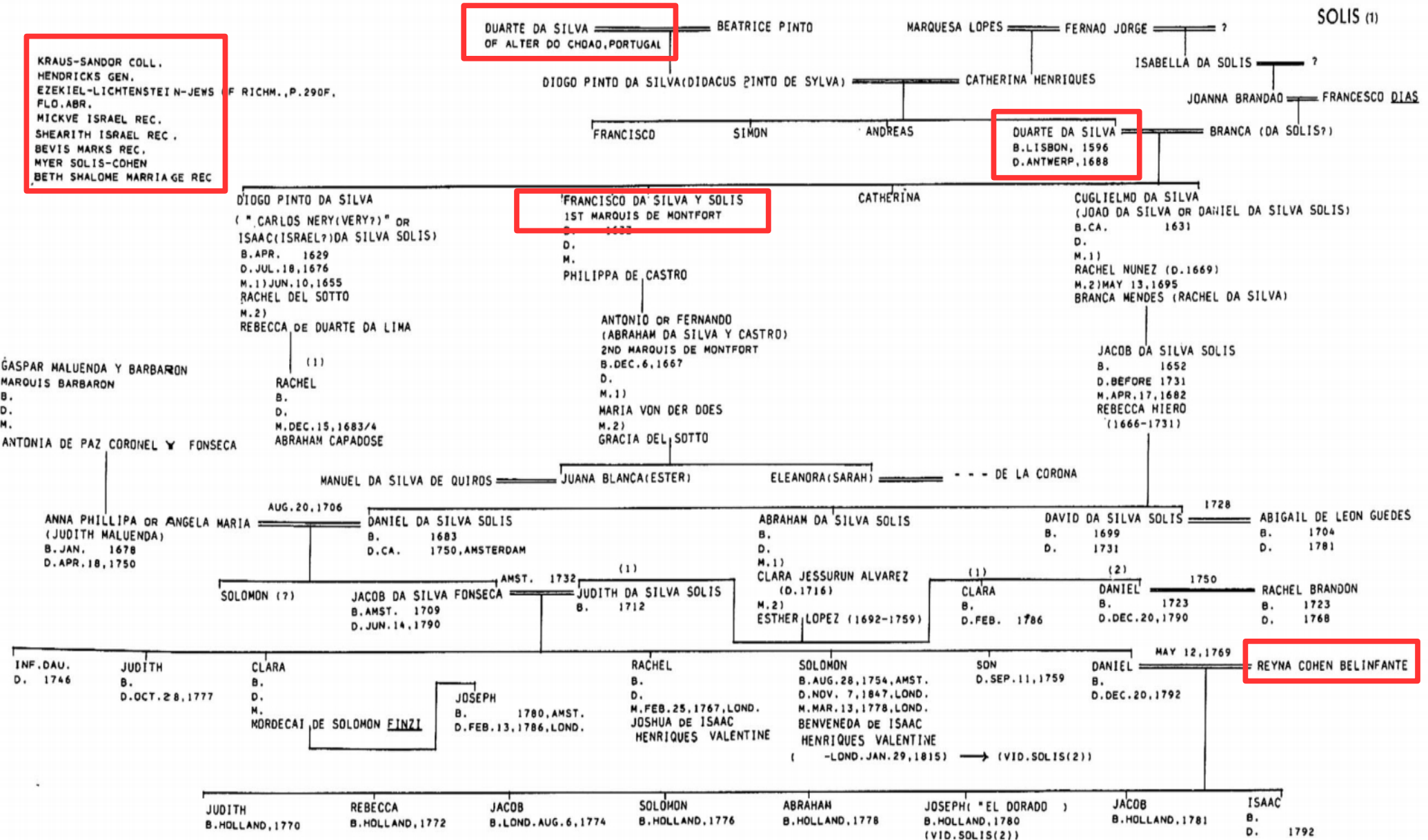


- 1662 Princess Catarina de Bragança of Portugal married King Charles II of England
- The administrator of Catarina's dowry was the converso financier Duarte da Silva
- Duarte escaped the inquisition in Portugal and moved to London, later Antwerp

Direct Descendants of Duarte da Silva



Stern p. 273



Kingston, Jamaica

- Raphael Cohen Belinfante 1715-1761
 - Hebrew teacher b. Amsterdam
 - 1745 Emigrated to Jamaica
- 10 children
 - 7 died in childhood
 - One son: Selomoh 1745-1817
 - Multiple descendants in Jamaica
- 1833 Slavery abolished in British Empire
 - 6 Belinfantes received compensation for 34 slaves totaling £1209



Recife, Brazil

- 1630-1654 Dutch colony in S. America
- 1636 קהל צור ישראל synagogue established by conversos from the Netherlands
 - First synagogue in the New World
- 1654 Portuguese capture Recife, re-institute the Inquisition
- 23 Jews leave Recife for New Amsterdam in N. America
- 1654 קהילת שארית ישראל synagogue established in New Amsterdam

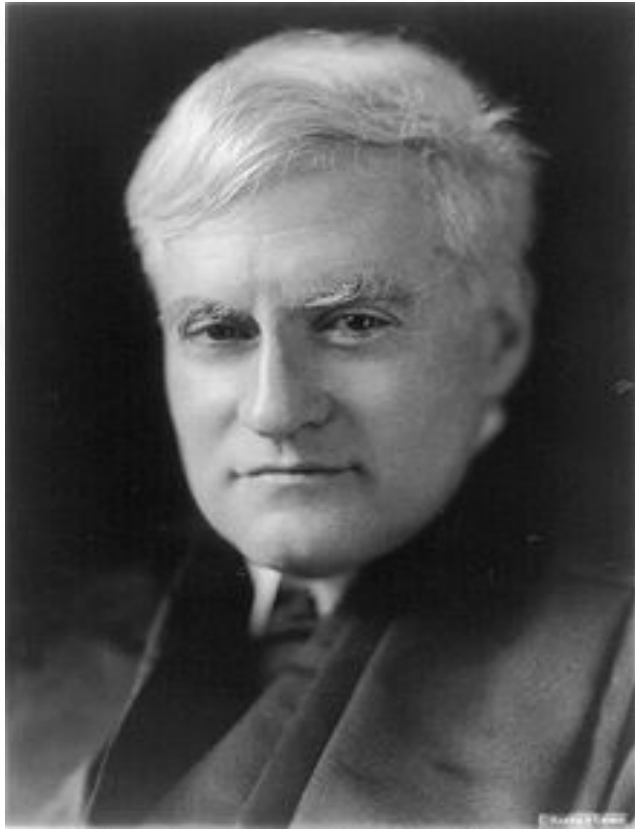


Sephardi Communities in North American Colonies

- 1654 ישראל ש ארית New York City
 - 1733 ישראל מקווה Savannah, Georgia
 - 1740s ישראל מקווה Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - 1749 בית אלוהים Charleston, South Carolina
 - 1763 ישראל ישועת (Touro) Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island
-
- Charleston was the largest Jewish community in North America until 1830
 - Synagogue built 1840



Portuguese Sephardim in the USA



- Benjamin Cardozo 1870-1938
- Supreme Court Justice 1932

- Judah Touro 1775-1854, philanthropist
- Son of Chazzan Isaac Touro b. 1738
Amsterdam

Online Genealogical Resources

- Akevoth - Jewish Genealogical Research in the Netherlands
 - dutchjewry.org
- Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy (NKvJG)
 - www.nljewgen.org
- SephardicGen (Jeff Malka)
 - sephardicgen.com
- Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain
 - jgsgb.org.uk
 - Dutch/Sephardic Special Interest Group
- Jewish Community Monument to Victims of the Holocaust in the Netherlands
 - joodsmonument.nl

joodsmonument.nl Sample Page

Ralph Ronald Belinfante

Wijk aan Zee, 27 February 1936
Auschwitz, 15 October 1944
Reached the age of 8


**Do you have extra information
about Ralph Ronald
Belinfante?**

[Add information in the Community »](#)



Ernst Belinfante and his family »

[De Zwaanstraat 26, Wijk aan Zee »](#)

Ernst Belinfante » 

Wijk aan Zee, 13 September 1906

Dachau, 20 February 1945


Head of family

Henriëtte Belinfante-Koord »

Amsterdam, 25 March 1904

Auschwitz, 15 October 1944

Spouse

Ariane Belinfante » 

Wijk aan Zee, 4 December 1933

Auschwitz, 15 October 1944

Daughter

Ralph Ronald Belinfante

Wijk aan Zee, 27 February 1936

Auschwitz, 15 October 1944

Son

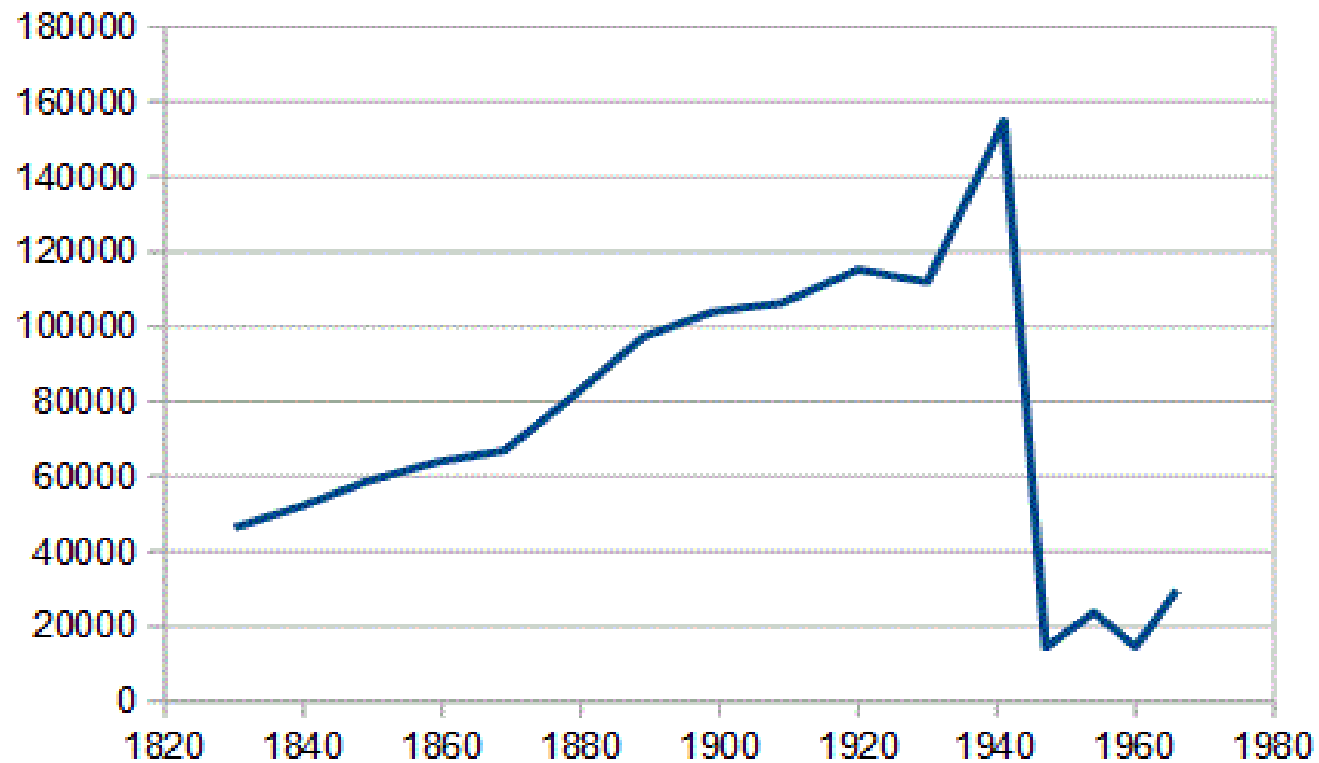


[enlarge image »](#)



[enlarge image »](#)

Jewish Population of the Netherlands



- May 10, 1940 140,000
- May 8, 1945 35,000

Two Jewish Girls d. 1945 Bergen-Belsen



Anne Frank 1929-1945



Helena Rabbie 1933-1945

תודה ! Thank You !



Supplementary Material

Family Holocaust Statistics

Mauthausen, Buchenwald	May 1941 - Mar 1942
Auschwitz	Jul 1942 - Feb 1943
Sobibor	Mar 1943 - Jul 1943
Auschwitz	Aug 1943 - Oct 1944
Bergen-Belsen	Feb 1945 - Apr 1945

Auschwitz	257
Sobibor	188
Others	66
Total	511

Amsterdam to Poland 1942-1944



Hollandsche Schouwburg
Amsterdam



Westerbork Transit Camp

What's in a Name?

- Hebrew צבי
- English Hart
- Dutch Hartog
- German Hirsch
- Yiddish הערשל



Hartog Jacob Rabbie 1778-1844

Ashkenazi Name Adoption

- 1811-1812 Napoleonic occupation required all citizens to adopt a family name
 - Mostly affected Ashkenazim
- Patronymics: Abrahams, Isaacs, Jacobs, Josephs, Mozes, Aarons, Davids, Solomons
- Place of origin: Polak, van Praag, Fransman, Italiaander, Englander
- Profession: Boekman, Melkman, Visser, Koopman
- Tribe: Cohen, Levie

Sephardi Hebrew Pronunciation

Hebrew	Translation	Ashkenazi	Eastern Sephardi	Mizrachi	Western Sephardi
ת	Tav w/o dagesh	S	T	T	T
ב	Bet w/o dagesh	V	V	V	B
ע	Ayin	(silent)	(silent)	ξ	NG
שבועות	Pentecost	Shavu'oys	Shavu'ot	Shavu'ot	Shabungot
לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד	For ever and ever	Le'oylom Vo'ed	Le'olam Vaed	Le'olam Va'ed	Lengolam Vanged

- Ben Yehuda selected Eastern Sephardi pronunciation for Modern Hebrew
- Pronunciation used by the Jewish population of Ottoman Jerusalem
- Many Ashkenazi synagogues have switched since the 1970's