

American Sephardi Federation: Family History Research Guide

American Sephardi Federation (ASF)

Since its founding in 1973, the American Sephardi Federation has represented the heritage of all Sephardim from the Iberian Peninsula and the Balkans, to the Jews of North Africa and Muslim lands including Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Ethiopia and Bukharian Jews. ASF's mission is to promote and preserve the spiritual, historical, cultural and social traditions of all Sephardic communities as an integral part of Jewish heritage.

Genealogical Resources at ASF

The most useful resources for family history research at ASF are listed below. Books with **REF** call numbers are on the open shelves in the Lillian Goldman Reading Room. Additional resources may be found in CJH's online catalog at <http://search.cjh.org>. The American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research also have valuable material on Sephardic families. For further information, see our fact sheet on Sephardic Genealogy, available at the Institute or at <http://www.cjh.org/p/60>.

Europe

Netherlands: *Misjopge: Verenigingsblad van de Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie*. (Periodical of the Netherlands Jewish Genealogical Society). Includes summaries in English. **DS 135. N4 M56**

Handleiding Bij De Index op De Ketuboth Van de Portugees-Israelietische Gemeente te Amsterdam Van 1650-1911. (Index of Marriage Registers of the Portuguese-Jewish Community of Amsterdam). In Dutch. This book contains the name of the groom, his father and grandfather, the name of the bride, her father and grandfather, witnesses, and the date according to Jewish calendar. **REF DS 135 .N5 A7 1990**

Lijst Der Aangeven Lijken, In Amsterdam. (Death records from 1806 to 1811). In Dutch. This book provides the family name, patronymic, date of death, place of burial, and age at death. **DS 135 .N5 A7 V37**

Huwelijken In Joods Den Haag: 1681-1811. (Marriages in the Hague, 1681-1811). In Dutch, with notes in English. This book contains bridegrooms' family names and patronymic, brides' family names and patronymic. **REF DS 135 .N5 H33**

Den Haag Portugees-Israelietische Huwelijken: 1711-1714 & 1730-1778. In Dutch. (List of marriages of Portuguese and Dutch Jews in The Hague.) Provides names and dates of marriages. Also includes births and deaths from 1755 to 1818. **REF DS135.N5 H32**

De Joodse Begraafplaatsen te Middelburg. In Dutch. Sections on Portuguese Jews and Dutch Jews, listing names, ages, place of burial, and epitaphs. **PN 6297 .H5 J7 1977**

Portugal & Spain: *Genealogia Hebraica*, by Jose Maria Abecassis. In Portuguese. Genealogies of the Jews of Portugal and Gibraltar from the 17th to 20th centuries, with an index of names and bibliography. **REF DS 135 .P7 A37**

North Africa

Tunisia: *Pinkas Ha Ketubot shel Ha Kehilah Ha Portugalit be Tunis*, by Robert Attal. In French. Includes 1031 ketubot, providing the date of marriage, names of bride and groom, signatures of witnesses, and the name of the person performing the ceremony. There is an index of names. **REF DS 135 .T71 T8632 REF**

Asia

Turning Back The Pages, by Esmond David Ezra. 2-volume chronicle of Calcutta Jewry. Vol. 1 is the history of the Jews of Calcutta, with index of names for both volumes, and Vol. 2 contains the genealogy of the Ezra family. **DS 135 .I62 C344 1986**

Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, Rangoon, Burma. In English. Birth register book, mostly chronological, providing the child's name, mother, father, date of birth, and the corresponding date on Jewish calendar. Inquire at reference desk.

Western Hemisphere

Barbados: *Monumental Inscriptions in the Burial Ground of the Jewish Synagogue at Bridgetown, Barbados*, by Eustace M. Shilstone. Includes inscriptions on the tombstones, plan of the cemetery and index of names in Hebrew, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. **F 2041 .S55 1956**

Barbados Jewish Community Collection. Records from Congregation Nidhe Israel and an index of names and ages from a 1715 census of Barbados. Inquire at reference desk.

Curacao: *Precious Stones of the Jews of Curacao, 1656-1957*, by Isaac Samuel Emmanuel. Contains epitaphs from tombstones in the cemetery of Congregation Mikve Israel 1656-1957, plus biographies, photos of tombstones, an index of names, and a map of the cemetery. Also includes information on emigration, immigration, languages, religious art, community organizations, social welfare institutions, and religious practices. **F 2049 .E42 1957**

Jamaica: *The Jews of Jamaica*, by Richard David Barnett. This book provides tombstone inscriptions from 1663 to 1880, and includes an index. Text in English; inscriptions in Hebrew, English, Portuguese, Spanish. **REF F 1896 .J48 B37**

Monumental Inscriptions of Jamaica, compiled by Philip Wright. Registers of births and deaths and epitaphs from Jamaica, compiled by the Society of Genealogists of Great Britain. Includes Jews and non-Jews. Contains a bibliography. **F 1865 .W74**

Mexico: *Los Judios de Alepo En Mexico*, edited by Liz Hamui de Halabe & Fredy Charabati. History and genealogy of the Jews from Aleppo, Syria who emigrated to Mexico; with index, bibliography and maps. **F 1392 .J4 J815 1989**

United States: *Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York* by Stephen Birmingham. Contains genealogical tables. **F 128.9 .J5 B62 1967**

The Jews of Charleston: A History of an American Jewish Community, by Charles Reznikoff. **BM 225 .C4 R48 1950**

Names

The Complete Book of Muslim and Parsi Names by Maneka Gandhi. **REF CS 2970 .G36 1994**

Dicionario Sefaradi De Sobrenomes by Guilherme Faiguenboim **REF CS 3010 .F35 2003**

Family Histories

Below is a small selection of family histories in the ASF collection. To locate others, consult the CJH catalog.

Noble Families Among the Sephardic Jews, by Isaac da Costa. Focuses on the Capadose and Silva families in Spain and Portugal; includes genealogical tables and a translation of Da Costa's 1850 work *Israel and the Gentiles*, with chapters by Bertram Brewster on the Capadose conversion to Christianity and by Cecil Roth on their Jewish history. **DS 135 .S7 C6**

The Sassoons, by Stanley Jackson. Contains genealogical tables, illustrations and a bibliography. **CS 439 .S22**

The Tale of a Name by Bension Varon. Monograph on the history of the surname "Varon." **CS 959 .V37**

Contact Information

American Sephardi Federation
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011
(212) 294-8350
www.americansephardifederation.org