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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Dictionary of American Jewish Biography in the Seventeenth Century

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ABANDANA, RAPHAEL. Massachusetts.

Probably a Jew. Listed as an inhabitant of Boston in 1695. Mentioned once (*First Report of the Record Commissioners of City of Boston* [1876], I, 158, 164).

ABOAF, MOSES. New York. On June 25, 1684, he was granted a license to trade and traffic within the city, like the

rest of the non-Jewish inhabitants. Mentioned once (*Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts* [1664-1776], XXXIII, 130).

ADOLPH, PETER. New York. Was taxed "for ye house ye Jew lives in." Although he may have been a Jew, he was more probably a non-Jew who rented a house in the years 1695-1700

This dictionary of American Jewish biography in the seventeenth century is based almost solely on printed sources. It is a part of a larger work of regests, dealing with the American Jew in the same period, which was originally presented as a thesis by Rabbi Grollman to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. It is now being prepared for publication by the American Jewish Archives.

- to a Jew. Mentioned three times (*New York Historical Society Collections [NYHS]*, I [1910], 37).
- AMBROSIUS, MOSES. New Amsterdam. On September 16, 1654, he was put under civil arrest for failure to pay the captain of the *St. Charles* the money for his (Ambrosius') passage to New Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*Records of New Amsterdam*, edited by Berthold Fernow, I, 244).
- ASHER, ISSACK. New York. Probably a Jew. On September 18, 1683, he was charged with selling an unhealthy negro. Mentioned once (*Select Cases of the Mayors Court of New York City [1674-1784]*, 78).
- AVILA, ABRAHAM. South Carolina. A respected merchant who was naturalized on August 3, 1698. Mentioned three times (*Statutes of South Carolina*, II, 131).
- BARSIMSON, JACOB. New Amsterdam. On July 8, 1654, he departed from Holland for New Amsterdam. He was probably the first Jew in New Amsterdam. On November 5, 1655, he and another Jew, Asser Levy, made petition to stand guard and be relieved from the military tax imposed on the Jews in lieu of military service. The last reference to Barsimson was in 1659. Mentioned fifteen times (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, XIV, 83).
- BENSON, DIRECK. New York. Possibly a Jew. His name almost always appears between the names of other Jewish taxpayers, between the years 1695-1700. Mentioned five times (*NYHS [1910]*, I, 176).
- BONAN, SIMON. New York. On April 21, 1687, he was made a freeman. He petitioned for letters of denization for a fellow-Jew, Isaac Naphtal, in 1695. Four years later, Bonan's deposition was quoted in a case involving the capture of pirates. Mentioned three times (*NYHS [1885]*, 54).
- BROWN, DAVID. Rhode Island. On June 24, 1684, he petitioned for economic rights. Mentioned once (*Records of the Colony of Rhode Island*, Ed. J. R. Bartlett, III, 160).
- BROWN, SAUL. Rhode Island; New York. In 1685, he and other Jews were charged in Newport with the violation of the Navigation Acts. They were later exonerated. Saul Brown (Pardo) later settled in New York, and has the distinction of being the first minister of the synagogue in 1695. Mentioned seven times (*New York Considered and Improved*, 1695, by John Miller, 54).
- BUENO, JOSEPH. New York. On May, 1681/2, he purchased "a cemetery in trust for the Jewish Nation." He was a leading citizen in New York from this date to the time of his death in 1708. Bueno, a shipping merchant, was financially prominent, so much so, that Lord Bellomont, governor of the colony in 1700, made use of his services in monetary matters. Mentioned fifteen times (*Journal of Legislative Council of the Colony of New York [1691-1743]*, Albany, II, 127).
- BUENO, MRS. New York. Perhaps a Jewess and probably the wife of Joseph Bueno. Mentioned several times in New York tax lists, 1695-1700 (*NYHS [1910]*, I, 28).
- BURGES, ABRAHAM. Rhode Island. In 1685, he, together with other Jews, was charged with the violation of the Navigation Acts. Mentioned once (*Records of the General Court of Trials [1671-1724]*, 73).
- CAMPANNAL, ABRAHAM. Rhode Island. In 1685, he was charged with violating the Navigation Acts. He was, no doubt, a relation of Mordecai, David, and Daniel Campannal. In 1688, he was licensed as a freeman. Mentioned twice (*Records of the General Court of Trials [1671-1724]*, 73).
- CAMPANNAL, DAVID. Rhode Island. In 1685, he was charged with the violation of the Navigation Acts. Mentioned once (*Records of the General Court of Trials [1671-1724]*, 73).
- CAMPANNAL, DANIEL. Rhode Island. In 1685, he was charged with the violation of the Navigation Acts. Mentioned once (*Records of the General Court of Trials [1671-1724]*, 73).

CAMPANNAL, MORDECAI. Rhode Island.

He is said to be among the first fifteen Jewish families who arrived in Newport in the spring of 1658 from Holland. He was probably the most important Jewish personality in the seventeenth century in Rhode Island. He was one of the purchasers of the first Jewish cemetery in Rhode Island. In 1685, Mordecai Campannal was brought to trial on the charge of violating the Navigation Acts, but he and his Jewish friends were acquitted. Mentioned seven times (Book No. 311, of Land Evidences, Newport).

CARDOZO, ISSAC. Dutch Colonial Settlement on the Delaware River. He and Isaac Israel refused on December 20, 1655, to help protect the highway. Both represented the Jewish traders of New Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*, XII, 132).

COHEN DELARA, ISSAC. New York. On April 14, 1699, he testified that he made an agreement to ship certain goods from Rhode Island. Mentioned once (*Journal of Legislative Council of New York* [1691-1743], 127).

COHEN, JACOB. New Amsterdam. On July 27, 1655, he made petition for a grant of land for a Jewish burial ground. He acted jointly with other Jews in petitioning for the right to trade on the Delaware River, the privilege to hold real estate, and the right of citizenship. Cohen, a prominent man in the Jewish community, lived in New Amsterdam for approximately four years. Mentioned twenty-seven times (*Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*, XII, 117).

COUTINHO, ISSAC. New York. On October 20, 1676, he asked to be made administrator of the estate of Edward Rawlings. Rawlings had goods in partnership with Isaac Coutinho, Issac Perero, and Abraham and Isaac Parveh. Coutinho is mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1892], 39).

COOTY, RABBA. New York. He was a merchant who was frequently involved in court disputes between the years 1666

and 1671. Mentioned eight times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, VI, 51).

CORDEA, HESTER. Maryland. Possibly a Jew. In 1674 she made petition to hold land (*Archives of Maryland*, II, 400-401).

DANDRADA, SALVADOR. New Amsterdam. On July 27, 1655, he made petition for a grant of land for Jewish burial. He also acted jointly with other Jews who sought the right of free trade, the privilege of possessing real estate, and the right of burghership. He lived less than two years in New Amsterdam. Mentioned ten times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 371).

DANIEL, JEW. New York. He is included in the tax list of September 7, 1696 (*NYHS* [1910], I, 107).

DAVID, THE JEW. Connecticut. On November 9, 1659, he was fined because he traded with children. Eleven years later he was listed as an inhabitant of Hartford. Mentioned twice (*Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, J. H. Trumbull [1850], I, 353).

DECOSTA, JOSEPH. New Amsterdam. A merchant, he lived in New Amsterdam between the years 1655-1660. He is mentioned frequently with other Jews, making petition with them on several occasions: the right to trade on the Delaware River, the privilege to hold real estate, and the right of burghership. DeCosta appears to have had a good knowledge of the Dutch language, for he frequently helped other Jews in translating documents into Dutch. Mentioned fourteen times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 371).

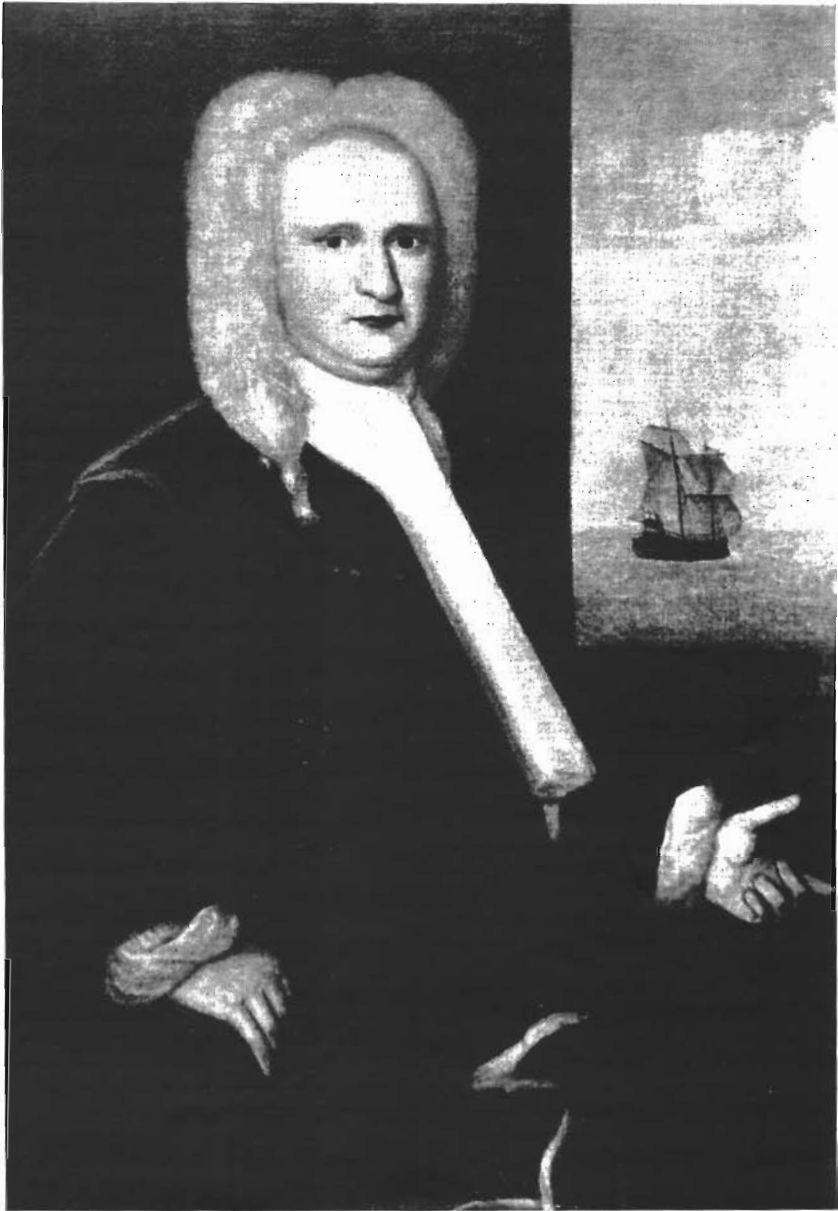
DECOSTA, MATTHIAS. Maryland. Possibly a Jew. On October 17, 1671, he petitioned for naturalization (*Archives of Maryland*, II, 318).

DECOSTER, ISSAC. Massachusetts. Possibly a Jew. On November 2, 1699, he married a Mary Temple. Mentioned once (*Report of the Record Commissioners containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths* [1630-1699], Boston, 1883, IX, 250).

DELUCENA, ABRAHAM (I). New Amsterdam. He probably arrived in New

- Amsterdam during the winter of 1654. An enterprising merchant, he was a spokesman for the Jewish community in their struggle for the right to trade, to own burial grounds, and to secure burghership. DeLucena spoke Dutch fluently, acting several times in the capacity of interpreter for his fellow Jews. He probably lived eight years in the colony and either died or else departed. Mentioned twelve times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 290).
- DE LUCENA, ABRAHAM (II). New York. Possibly a son of the above Abraham DeLucena, he is mentioned in a tax list of 1699 (*NYHS* [1911], 11).
- DE MEREDA, JUDIQ. New Amsterdam. On September 10, 1654, he was ordered by the court to defray his debt for passage to New Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 241).
- DE MESQUITA, BENJAMIN BUENO. New York. He was a member of a well-known Spanish-Portuguese Jewish family of Amsterdam. He was buried in New York in 1683. Mentioned once (Inscription of tombstone, translated from Portuguese: *Publications American Jewish Historical Society*, 1 [1893], 92).
- DE PORTO, JACOB. New York. Probably a Jew. Mentioned frequently in the years 1695-1700 with other Jews (*NYHS* [1910], I, 183).
- DE SOUSA, MATHIAS. Maryland. Possibly a Jew. In 1639, he was mentioned in a case involving a debt (*Archives of Maryland*, IV, 85).
- DIAS, ISSAC FERNINAND. New York. Probably a Jew. Mentioned frequently in the years 1695-1700 with other Jews (*NYHS* [1912], 181).
- EN REQUES, JOSHUA MORDEKAY. New Amsterdam. On December 1, 1656, jewelry was sent to him in New Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, XVIII, 37).
- FERERA, DAVID. New Amsterdam; Maryland. He appears forty-four times in New Amsterdam, from April 15, 1655 to September 16, 1658. As a rule he was involved in court cases and in the case of Keyser's missing clothing in particular. As a result of the latter case, Ferera was confined in prison. In 1656, he had some business connections with a Jew, da Silva of Holland. David Ferera was also involved in lawsuits in Maryland. He is mentioned thirty-five times in Maryland until the year 1660 (*Archives of Maryland*, X, 473).
- FRANCES, JOSEPH. New Amsterdam. In 1660 he was a merchant in New Amsterdam. He left shortly thereafter for Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*, XIV, 525).
- FRANCO, SOLOMON. Massachusetts. He is the first known Jew in the North America Colonies. On May 2, 1649, Franco was given money out of the treasury for passage to Holland. Mentioned twice (*Records of the Governor of Massachusetts Bay* [1642-1649], II, 273).
- FRAZON, JOSEPH. Massachusetts. He is mentioned as an inhabitant of Boston in 1697. He studied formerly with Joshua de Silva of London. Joseph's brother was Samuel. Mentioned once (*Phoenomena Quaedem* [1727], by Reverend Samuel Sewall, 39).
- FRAZON, SAMUEL. Massachusetts. He is mentioned as an inhabitant of Boston in 1697. Mentioned once (*Phoenomena Quaedem* [1727], by Reverend Samuel Sewall, 39).
- GABAY, ISSAC. New York. In 1700, he testified in a case between Bueno and de Porto. Mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1912], 210).
- GIDEON, ROWLAND. Massachusetts. He was mentioned in the first Boston tax list of 1674. One year later Gideon appeared in a lawsuit. Mentioned three times (*First Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston* [1876], 29).
- GRANADA, SARAH. New York. Sarah, wife of Issac Henriques Granada, is mentioned frequently in tax lists between 1695-1700. She died in 1708 (*NYHS* [1911], 11).
- HENRIQUEZ, ISSAC. New York. On June 2,

- 1687, he was made a freeman (*NYHS* [1885], 54).
- ISRAEL, ABRAM. New Amsterdam. On September 10, 1654, he was ordered by the court to defray his debt for passage to New Amsterdam. Mentioned once (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 241).
- ISRAEL, BENJAMIN. New York. A soap maker, he is referred to in a tax list of March 7, 1699. Mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1911], 11).
- ISRAEL, DAVID. New Amsterdam. On September 16, 1654, he was put under civil arrest for failure to pay his passage money to New Amsterdam. Mentioned twice (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 244).
- ISRAEL, ISSAC. New Amsterdam. As an agent of the Jews engaged in trade he refused, on December 20, 1655, to help protect a highway on the Delaware River. Mentioned four times (*Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New York*, XII, 132).
- ISSACKE, JOSEPH. Massachusetts. Possibly a Jew. On March 9, 1636, he was made a freeman (*Records of the Governor of Massachusetts Bay* [1628-1641], I, 372).
- ISSACS, JACOBUS. New York. Possibly a Jew. On August 23, 1698, Jacobus Issacs, carpenter, was made a freeman (*NYHS* [1885], 65).
- ISSACS, JOSEPH. New York. On September 26, 1691, he asked for the restoration of a gun that was taken from him while a soldier during King William's War. A butcher by trade, he was made a freeman in 1698. His mother was Rebecca Issacs. He died in 1737. Mentioned three times (*Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts* [1664-1776], XXXVIII, 217).
- ISSACS, REBECCA. New York. Rebecca Isaacs, a Jewish widow, was mentioned in the tax lists between 1695-1700 (*NYHS* [1910], I, 27).
- LEVI ———. Rhode Island. He is said to have been among the fifteen Jewish families who arrived in Newport in 1658 from Holland and who brought with them the first degrees of Masonry. Mentioned once (Peterson, Edward, *History of Rhode Island and Newport in the Past* [1853], 101).
- LEVY, ANSELL SAMUEL. New York. On October 28, 1684, he petitioned for release from prison in order to testify in a case with Symon Valentyn van der Wilde. Perhaps he married Asser Levy's widow, and on the basis of this relationship, claimed the land of the deceased. Mentioned four times (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, XXXII, 110).
- LEVY, ASSER (I). New Amsterdam. New York; Connecticut. He is probably the most prominent Jew in the North American colonies in the seventeenth century. His full name, Asser Levy Van Schwelm, indicates perhaps that his family came originally from Schwelm, Westphalia. Levy was practically penniless when he arrived in the New World in the fall of 1654. On November 5, 1655, Levy petitioned with Barsimson for leave to stand guard or be relieved from the special tax to which only Jews were subject in lieu of military service. Since Levy had to support himself by manual labor, the tax was too much for him to pay. Levy then turned to trade, and acquired wealth. He was probably the first Jewish land owner in North America. As far as our records indicate, he was the only Jew to swear allegiance to the English after the surrender of New York. Levy's greatest contribution to the Jewish community was his role as good-will ambassador to the non-Jews. In 1671, he lent money to the Lutherans for the building of their first church in New York. A butcher, in 1678 he built a public slaughter house. He is one of the few Jews who married. When he died in 1681, he left his estate to his wife, Miriam. Mentioned 94 times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 242).
- LEVY, ASSER (II). New York. This Asser Levy, perhaps the son of the late Asser Levy, married Margaret Levy in 1684. Mentioned once (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, XXXVIII, 76).
- LEVY, JOHN. Virginia. Possibly a Jew.



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MOSES LEVY, A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MERCHANT

- He obtained some land in 1648. Mentioned once (*William and Mary College Quarterly*, x, 95).
- LEVY, MIRIAM. New York. Possibly a Jewess. She was the wife of Asser Levy and the administratrix of his estate after 1682. Mentioned three times (*Court Minutes of Albany, Rensselaerswyck, and Schenectady*, III, 463).
- LEVY, MOSES. New York. On June 27, 1693, Moses Levy, an agent for the New York Colony, filed accounts for presents given to the Indians. A freeman, he was for several years head of the New York Congregation. Mentioned three times (*NYHS* [1885], 57).
- LUCENA, JACOB. Connecticut, New York. On October 11, 1670, he was tried in Hartford for "lascivious dalliance and wanton carriage and profers to several women." His fine was abated as a token of respect to Asser Levy. In 1678, he petitioned as a dweller in the colony of New York for privileges of trade. Mentioned four times (*Public Records of Connecticut*, II, 144).
- LUCENA, MOSES. New York. In 1658, he served as an interpreter. Two years later he was sworn in as a butcher. Mentioned four times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, VII, 261).
- LUMBROZO, (JOHN) (I). Maryland. He is undoubtedly the most important Jew in Maryland in the seventeenth century. Lumbrozo, who first appeared in Maryland in January, 1656, is described as "late of Lisbone in the Kingdom of Portugal." Two years later, he was brought to trial on the charge of uttering words of blasphemy against Jesus. This did not seem to change his status for he was soon vested with letters of denization. Although Lumbrozo's occupation is listed as a surgeon, he also engaged in other economic pursuits, such as agriculture, as innkeeper, and as a trader with the Indians. Lumbrozo married the girl on whom he had produced a criminal abortion. When he died about 1665, a son was posthumously born to her. Mentioned 112 times (*Archives of Maryland*, x, 511).
- LUMBROZO, JOHN (II). Maryland. The son of the late John Lumbrozo, he signed a deed in 1672 for one brown cow. Mentioned once (*Archives of Maryland*, XLI, 30).
- MESA, ISSAC. New Amsterdam. On January 12, 1657, he appealed the decision of the vice director at the South River. Mentioned once (*Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts* [1630-1664], VIII, 186).
- MENCKS, SAMUEL. Carolina. On October 14, 1695, he received a bond. He is always mentioned with Symon Valentyn. Mencks is mentioned twice (*Grant Book* [1696-1703]).
- MENDIS, JACOB. Carolina. A merchant who was naturalized in 1697. Mentioned once (*Statutes of South Carolina*, II, 131-133).
- MOLL, ABRAHAM. New York. Was taxed "for ye house ye Jew lives in." Although he may have been a Jew, he was more probably a non-Jew who rented a house in the years 1675-1700 to a Jew. Mentioned eight times (*NYHS* [1910], I, 110).
- MOSES, ABRAHAM. Rhode Island. On March 9, 1656, he was given a degree of Masonry on Rosh Hashanah. Mentioned once (Memoranda furnished by Mr. N. H. Gould: Petersen, *History of Rhode Island* [1853], 101).
- NAPHTAL, ISSAC. New York. On August 29, 1695, Simon Bonan petitioned for letters of denization for Issac Naphtal, described as a Jew butcher in Rhode Island. Mentioned once (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, XX, 65).
- NEHEMIAH, MOSES. Virginia. Nehemiah, who is mentioned in June 24, 1658, is the only known Jew in Virginia in the seventeenth century. Mentioned once (*York Records, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 1894, I, 467).
- NUNES, RYCKE. New Amsterdam. She was represented by Solomon Pietersen in a suit against Asser Levy in 1654. Mentioned three times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 242).
- ПАЧЕКОВЕ, MOSES. Rhode Island. He is said to be among the fifteen families

- who came to Newport in 1658. On February 28, 1677, he was one of the purchasers of land for a Jewish cemetery. Mentioned twice (*Book No. 311 of Land Evidences in Newport*).
- PARVEH, ABRAHAM. New York. He was in partnership with Coutinho, Perero, and Issac Parveh in 1676. Abraham was, no doubt, related to Issac Parveh. Mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1892], 39).
- PARVEH, ISSAC. New York. He was in partnership with Coutinho, Perero, and Abraham Parveh in 1676. Mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1892], 39).
- PEDRO, JOHN. Virginia. Possibly a Jew. He lived in Lancaster county in 1652. Mentioned once (P. A. Bruce, *Social Life of Virginia in Seventeenth Century*, 261).
- PERERO, ISSAC. New York. He was in partnership with Coutinho and Abraham and Issac Parveh in 1676. Perero was made a free denizen in the Barbados in 1669. Mentioned twice (*NYHS* [1892], 39).
- PIETERSEN, SOLOMON. New Amsterdam. On September 7, 1654, he appeared in court in reference to debts owed by the Jews for passage to New Amsterdam. Pietersen was also the agent of Rycke Nunes in a suit against Asser Levy. He remained in New Amsterdam for less than a year. Mentioned four times (*Records of New Amsterdam*, I, 240).
- ROBLES, DAVID. New York. He was probably a member of a family of Protestant Marranos who was forced to flee France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. On May 11, 1687, David Robles was made a freeman. He also petitioned in the same year with Jacob Robles for the right to hold real estate. He together with Saul Brown made a petition in 1696 in reference to a brigantine. Mentioned three times (*NYHS* [1885], 54).
- ROBLES, JACOB. New York. A French alien who was, perhaps, a brother of David Robles. On December 5, 1687, he petitioned for the right to settle in New York. Mentioned once (*New York Colonial Manuscripts*, xxv, 123).
- RODREQUEZ, MANUEL. Virginia. Possibly a Jew. He is listed as living in Lancaster County in 1652. Mentioned once (P. A. Bruce, *Social Life of Virginia in Seventeenth Century*, 261).
- RODREQUEZ, SILVEDO. Virginia. Possibly a Jew. He is mentioned as living in Lancaster County in 1652. Mentioned only once (P. A. Bruce, *Social Life in Virginia in Seventeenth Century*, 261).
- SAMUEL, THE JEW. Massachusetts. Perhaps he is Samuel Frazon. Samuel the Jew is listed as an inhabitant of Boston in 1695. Mentioned once (*First Report and Record Commissioner of the City of Boston* [1876], I, 158).
- SILVA, ELIAS. New Amsterdam. On March 27, 1656, he was charged with having carnal conversation with a negress slave. He remained in New Amsterdam less than a year. Mentioned twice (*Records of New Amsterdam*, II, 76).
- SOLLOMON. Massachusetts. Sollomon, "the Malata Jew of Bostorni," profaned the Christian Sabbath in 1668 by traveling. Mentioned once (*Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts*, IV [1667-1671], 87).
- VALENTYN, DAVID. New York; He is included in a tax list of 1695. Mentioned three times (*NYHS* [1910] I, 2).
- VALENTYN, SYMON. New York; South Carolina. On July 1, 1684, Symon Valentyn van der Wilde, went to court in Albany in reference to the estate of his deceased brother-in-law, Asser Levy. He was frequently in dispute with Ansell Samuel Levy. In 1696, Symon Valentyn was a witness to a bond in South Carolina. A merchant, he was naturalized in South Carolina and seemed to prosper there. Mentioned twelve times (*Court Minutes of Albany, Renssalaerswyck, and Schenectady*, III, 463).
- VERSE, ARON. Rhode Island. In 1685 he was charged with the violation of the Navigation Acts. He and the rest of the Jews were later acquitted. Mentioned once (*Records of the General Court of Trials* [1671-1724], 73).