
Jewish Owners of Ships Registered at the Port of Philadelphia, 1730-1775

Author(s): Samuel Oppenheim

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Present Position of Europe, and Its Probable Consequences to the United States," 1860; besides text-books on algebra, geometry, arithmetic, chemistry, astronomy and natural philosophy between 1830 and 1835.*

A. M. F.

JEWISH OWNERS OF SHIPS REGISTERED AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, 1730-1775.*

The first entry containing names of Jews appears under date of October 10, 1730, when Solomon and Elias Depaz, of London, with a resident of Philadelphia, registered their ship *Diligence*, 80 tons burthen, built in Philadelphia.

In 1737 Rachel Marks, of Philadelphia, with others, registered as owners the brig *Lydia*, 54 tons, and in 1743 Joseph Marks, of the same place, registered the snow *Barbados Factor*, 50 tons burthen. Joseph Marks also, in 1743, registered the sloop *Charming Sally*, 60 tons, and in 1746 the snow *Hannah*, 40 tons burthen. In 1747 appears his registration of the schooner *Polly*, 40 tons, and in 1748, of the brig *Dolphin*, 50 tons. He registered in 1749 the ship *Prince Orange*, 70 tons, and in 1751 the snow *Dolphin*, 50 tons, and the snow *Charming Polly*, 50 tons burthen.¹⁰

March 10, 1743-4 Nathan Levy and David Franks of Philadelphia, with another, appear as the owners of the schooner *Drake*, built in that city. These two alone appear in 1745 as the owners of the sloop *Sea Flower*, 30 tons burthen, built in Connecticut. In 1748 they registered the ship *Myrtille*, 100 tons, as owners, and in 1750

* See Gustav Körner, *Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, 1818-1848*, Cincinnati, 1880, pp. 35, 49, 51, 57, 59, 60, 72, 76, 107, 111, 155, 418; Konrad Menzel, *Wolfgang Menzel's Denkwürdigkeiten*, Bielefeld and Leipzig, 1877, p. 225; H. A. Rattermann, *Gesammelte Ausgewählte Werke*, Cincinnati, 1911, vol. x, pp. 69-80; *Deutsch-Amerikanisches Magazin*, Cincinnati, 1887, p. 594 *et seq.*; Ulrich B. Phillips, ed., "The Correspondence of Robert Toombs, Alexander H. Stephens, and Howell Cobb," Washington, 1913, pp. 168, 278, 321, 455 *et seq.* In the late Marlon D. Learned's "Guide" to the material on American history in the German archives there is a reference to Grund. A letter of the celebrated John Adams Dix, dated New York, May 20, 1827, addressed to Dr. George Cheney Shattuck, of Boston, mentioned Grund; see *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, vol. 1, p. 152 (1917). Körner, *supra*, pp. 215-17, supplies some biographical particulars concerning Samuel N. Pike (1822-75), whose name was originally Hecht, a German Jew who figured in the affairs of Cincinnati for thirty years prior to his decease.

* From a compilation of "Ship Registers for the Port of Philadelphia, 1728-1775," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vols. xxiv-xxviii.

¹⁰ The Marks family is mentioned about this period in Morals' "The Jews of Philadelphia."

the ship *Phila*, 105 tons, while in 1751 they owned the ship *Parthenope*, 95 tons.

In 1760 John Franks of Philadelphia owned with others the sloop *Two Sisters*, 30 tons, taken from the French by a privateer.

Samuel Levy of Philadelphia, in 1760, was the owner, with others, of the snow *Charming Betsey*, 80 tons, likewise taken by a privateer as a prize from the French.

Matthias Bush in 1770 was the owner of the ship *Priscilla*, built in Sussex County, Delaware, 130 tons burthen.

In 1771 Sampson Levy and another of Philadelphia registered as owners the schooner *Deborah*, 40 tons.

In 1772 Moses Franks, Isaac Levy and David Franks, residence not given, were the owners of the ship *Gloucester*, built in New Jersey, 230 tons, while in 1773, 1774 and 1775, Moses Franks of London, and David Franks of Philadelphia, together, were the owners of the ship *Delaware*, 300 tons, of the *Belle*, 170 tons, and of the *Mars*, 400 tons.

Daniel Nunez of Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware, mentioned in 1737-8, 1743 and 1750 I find, from a MS. source, noted as a non-Jew.

SAMUEL OPPENHEIM.

THE JEWISH SIGNERS OF THE NON-IMPORTATION AGREEMENT OF 1765.

In *Publications*, *supra*, No. 1, p. 50, Prof. Morris Jastrow, Jr., gave the names of some of the Jewish merchants of Philadelphia who signed the Non-Importation Agreement of 1765, in protest against the Stamp Act. His list, however, is not complete. The following additional names of Jews are to be found among the signers: Mathias Bush and Abraham Mitchel (*sic*). The former was the father of Solomon Bush, the well known Jewish patriot¹¹ and the latter was a partner of Joseph Simon in the firm of Simon and Mitchell.¹² The original agreement is in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, and this Society possesses a photographic copy of the signatures taken from a facsimile in the New York Public Library.¹³

¹¹ Morals, "The Jews of Philadelphia," p. 22.

¹² William V. Byars, "B. and M. Gratz, Merchants in Philadelphia, 1754-1798," Jefferson City, Mo., 1916, pp. 56, 57, 88. The Mitchell family soon after the Revolution was well known among the Jews of Philadelphia. See Morals, *supra*, p. 50.

¹³ Hyman Levy, Junr, one of the signers, was not the famous Hayman Levy as the latter in 1765 was a prominent merchant in New York. The spelling of the first name is different and the writing also differs, as may be seen by a comparison of the signatures in the facsimile and in another facsimile printed in *Publications*, *supra*, No. 21, p. 99.