

TID-BIT SECTION (THIS & THAT STUFF)* added to as I think of more stuff

BAROCAS: The name is said to come from the Hebrew word Berakoth (Blessing). Spellings range from: Barocas, Barrocas, Barocius, Barochas, Barocais, Barozzi (Italian translation from Latin to Italian), Baroccas, CaBarrocas, Valarrocas. There is also a city in Brazil called Barrocas. Many, as in Brazil are no longer Jewish. Some converted and became Catholic in Spain after the Alhambra Decree. Others converted in Portugal. Mordechai Barrocas came back to the faith in 1604 after his niece Tamar Barrocas was burned at the stake for trying to get former Jews to return to the Faith. Barocas also shows up in Livorno Italy and Amsterdam as well as Brazil where we lived as Jews under Dutch rule and converted or escaped to Curacao after Portugal took over. Also, the following is from a Dutch archivist:

I found some information about early 17th century members of the Barrocas-family.

In 1636 the widow Ester Pinta [widow of Joseph Pinto] makes her testament. It appears that she does not leave any children. Her brother Mozes Barrocas de Pas and her sister Leonor Gomes, who lives in Madrid, are mentioned. She declares that she and her husband rendered their unpaid services to the synagogue during 25 years. With the exception of a few legacies, her estate is to be used to carry her remains and those of her husband to the Holy Land. (1636, December 16; City Archives Amsterdam, Notarial Archives 414 B, folio 542; Notary Nicolaes Jacobs.) (Studia Rosenthaliana, Volume 13, page 112).

More information on the Amsterdam Barrocas-family can be found here: www.dutchjewry.org (or search for Akevoth.) There are a few marriages of Barrocas's in the early and mid 17th century in Amsterdam. Places of birth: Rouen, Pisa, Brasil. Check also the records of the Portuguese Jewish Cemetery. Spellings of the name include Barocas and Barogas.

In 1658 Jacob Barrocas, living in Livorno, only son of Moseh Barocas, becomes a member of Dotar, in place of his father who had died in Safed. (City Archives Amsterdam, Archives of the Portuguese Jewish Community, number 1143 / scan 151 / folio 140 verso / 24 Elul 5418)

In 1662 a list of members of Dotar was drawn up, to which new information was added from time to time. Number 21 on the list was Jahacob Barocas descendent of Mosseh Barrocas de Pax. For him Mosseh Barocas Henriques 5422. For him Jehosuah Barocas Henriques 5434. For him Jacob Henriques (5458?) (CAA, PJC 1144, scan 12 / page 13 (original number) or 21 (in pencil, from a later date)) From later entries it becomes clear that Moses and Josua Barrocas Henriques are sons of Jahacob.

Dotar was a charity. Its members donated money, which each year was given away by means of a lottery for dowries to poor or orphaned young ladies. Candidates for the dowries came from Amsterdam, Hamburg, Rouen, Bordeaux, Livorno, Pisa, Venice, London, Curaçao, Barbados.

From all this information a few conclusions can be drawn: the Barrocas-family probably came from Spain, maybe Madrid. They came to Amsterdam, maybe by way of Italy and France, and went back to Italy. Also there are a few early connections to the Near East. Amsterdam is one of the central hubs for many a Sephardic journey. It is advisable to always check the Amsterdam sources on Akevoth www.dutchjewry.org and the City Archives of Amsterdam <http://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/>. Research for names recently mentioned on this forum will benefit greatly from research in Amsterdam: Rodrigues, Vaz Martins, Abarbanel and Barrocas.

One last thing: to explain the name Barrocas as: Bar = son of and Rocas = Rock, seems a bit unlikely to me because it combines two languages, Hebrew and Spanish in one name.

Best regards, Ton Tielen, The Hague
Shalom Alex!

Thank you for your opinion that our Family name (Baroca and various spellings) is of Italian origin. It shows up in Livorno under Barocas and various other locations as Barochas in the 15th century as well as Barocius, etc.

I much appreciate your observations and opinion.
Vic Barocas - Johns Creek, Georgia USA

asantipereiro@... writes:

How are you, Mr. Victor.

We can say that Baroca and its grammatical variants are of Italian origin. They are last names of categories or classes of the toponymic or topographic, place names, referring to geographical locations.

They arise from a common root that is Barocchio or Baroccio, is a town in northern Italy (it's difficult to consider another type of origin or source, only it would be grammatical similarities and also linguistic, but be similar is not the same). One thing that is more plausible than the original Italian spelling has adapted, aptado, accommodated, suitable to other languages of the exilio, despite the redundancy, this is very possible. All the Israelites families have a Hebrew name but where they had to choose places names or sites names, left his Hebrew name (but never forget their family name, but sometimes it is necessary to adopt a name that can not be translate or transcribe the local language).

In Italy the persecutions and forced conversions to Christianity were the order in the 16th century, it was the worst they had to live and endure the Jewish families who arrived from Spain and Portugal in Italy. This is not a data minor or negligible. Receive a warm greeting. Alex.

BEHAR: The name is said to come from Bejar, Spain. Large Behar family reunions take place from time to time in Spain.

UZIEL: The name is said to be derived from the Prophet UZZIAH. Name is a variant of Uziah (Hebrew) and Uziel (Hebrew), and the meaning of Uzziah is "the Lord is my strength; strength, power". Two Uzielli Brothers fought with Garibaldi in Italy. The second chief Rabbi of Amsterdam was Isaac Uziel. My dad said that we were descended from a famous Rabbi from Holland, well - that might be the proof.
Read more at <http://www.thinkbabynames.com/meaning/1/Uzziah#vluqZcillErXTZsG.99>

FINZ/FINZI: Judah Barocas was married to Roza Finz. They were my great grandparents from Tekirdag/Rodosto and Corlu Turkey. Three of the Rabbis were "Finz" in Tekirdag. Here is some info:
Port of Turkey in Europe on the Sea of Marmora, 78 miles west of Constantinople. The city had a Jewish community as early as the twelfth century; for in 1173 Benjamin of Tudela found 400 Jews there, among whom were the noted rabbis Moses, Abijah, and Jacob. The community has remained undisturbed for centuries, but it has not attained any great importance. In the seventeenth century Rodosto possessed a celebrated thaumaturge, R.

Isaac ben Sahl, author of a curious manuscript in Judæo-Spanish entitled "Sefer Segullot," which treats of divination, chiromancy, suggestion, and similar topics; and another native of Rodosto, Judah Graziani (1838-93), carried on the work of his predecessor, the belief in demons and malevolent spirits still being a characteristic of the people. Epitaphs in the local cemetery mark the tombs of the chief rabbis [Nissim Moses Finzi \(1736\)](#) and [Zebi Nathan](#), while in the same cemetery are the graves of the chief rabbis of the nineteenth century, Raḥamim Graziani, Ḥayyim [Elijah Finzi](#), and [Jacob Finzi](#).
