

The Assenheim Family - Documents

Ashkenazi Jews



Ashkanzi Jews in Amsterdam

The Ashkenazi Jews arrived from North Western Europe and were far poorer than their wealthy Sephardi counterparts, who came mainly from Spain and Portugal. Indeed, The Sephardi Jews passed regulations restricting marriage and other involvements with the, perceived, socially inferior Ashkenazim. These poor Jews lived on the margins of the Sephardic community, relying on their charity, Synagogues etc and also for work. By the 18th century although the Ashkenazi Jews were far more established, they were still separate from the Sephardi Jews.

Zeeburg Cemetery

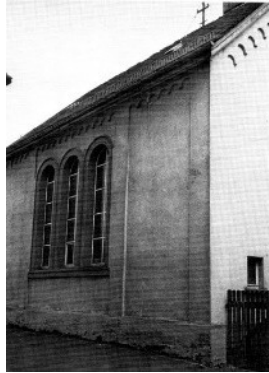
Flevopark, Amsterdam, Netherlands



In 1714 the Ashkenazi (High German) Jews began using the Zeeburg cemetery. They had been using a cemetery in Muiderberg since 1642 but with the population explosion among Amsterdam Jews, it was proving too small. Zeeburg was above all intended for poor Jews who couldn't afford the cost of a grave. It was also the place where people were buried when they died on a Friday or Jewish festival, or the day before one of these. The funeral procession to the cemetery at Muiderberg would be with a horse and cart and then by barge. This was so time-consuming it couldn't take place on high days and holidays. But Zeeburg lay much nearer the city. Between the years 1714 and 1942 around 100,000 people were buried here.

Assenheim Synagogue

Assenheim-im-Niddatal, near Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany



1704 a ‘new Jewish school’ (synagogue) is called in Assenheim. 1862 once a new synagogue was in the Fountain Street (in the old town between the old town hall and the church) was built (opened presumably at the site of the old synagogue, and in November / December this year. Creates, a plastered solid with a steep pitched roof, pilasters, arched frieze and arched windows, three on each side to be taken in a group. The main entrance was in the West.

The Great Synagogue, Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Netherlands



The Great Synagogue is the oldest of the four synagogues in which the Jewish Historical Museum is housed. Of all these former synagogues, the Great Synagogue was always the most prestigious. It has often been depicted and much has been written about it. The Ashkenazi community of Amsterdam was founded in 1635 and at first small groups of Jews held services at different places. As the flood of Jewish refugees fleeing the wars and pogroms of Eastern Europe increased, the community grew and the need for a large central Ashkenazi synagogue was felt. In 1670 a plot of land was purchased for the purpose.

Assenheim Ice Cream Challenge

Hokey-Pokey was a frozen sweet which consisted of a small slice of ice cream about two inches square and half an inch thick, tucked into a piece of paper to give the customer something to hold onto.

Whether anyone took up this challenge and whether it went ahead we may never know.

THE HOKEY-POKEY CHAMPION

Open to Make a Match with Anybody in the World.

If any reader fancies his power in the seductive art of hokey-pokey making he is invited to try conclusions with Tommy Rochford.

It takes a good deal to disturb the usual calm of an editorial office, but when the office boy announced that "the champion hokey-pokey maker of the world" was waiting to see the editor of a London evening paper, there was a mild flutter of excitement.

Accompanying this intimation was the following note:—

Tommy from Assenheim's of No. 7a, Stoney-lane, Houndsditch, is open to challenge the world at large for from five to ten pounds in making ten boxes of hokey-pokeys by doing their own work will give anybody one hour's start, Judah or Joe Assenheim preferred.

We are a sporting nation, and one frequently tumbles across the gentlemen who can clean more skates in a given time than any other person, polish more pewter pots, dress a carcass of beef, or wheel a barrow with two bushels of potatoes in it a given distance in less time than anybody else, but the man who is willing to take anybody and everybody on at making hokey-pokey was somebody out of ordinary. The office boy's eyes glistened when he was told to show the gentleman up. He obviously believed that the champion had brought some specimens of his work with him.

Tommy from Assenheim's bears his championship very modestly.

He explained his challenge in the following lucid language:—

"One of 'em as I'm challengin' is the Guv'nor, that's Joe, don't you see, and o' course he might have some one to help 'im. But that ain't allowed. It's got to be from the bilin' to the finish."

"From the bilin' to the finish" included freezing, putting into moulds, taking out again, and cutting into squares and then wrapping the pink and white morsels in paper.

"There ain't no animosity between me and the Guv'nor, don't you know," said the champion. "It's friendly rivalry, like, Judah's his nephew."

"How did the challenge come to be issued?"

"It was like this, yer see. I was a-workin' when the Guv'nor's son-in-law 'e comes to me an' 'e says, 'Tommy, 'e says, 'Joe's been a-talkin' 'e says, 'and 'e thinks 'e can do you down at making hokey.'"

"'An, can 'e?' I says: 'well, let 'im do it.' I says, 'I'll give 'im ten in thirty.' I says, 'and leave 'im a mile behind,' I says. 'Well, I wanted 'im to put up a sovereign and bind a match, but 'e wouldn't, so now I'm offerin' this challenge."

It may be stated that each box contains four dozen pieces of hokey-pokey, so if this sporting event should come off each man will have to turn out 480 squares. Tommy reckons he can do the lot from "bilin' to finish" in three hours and a half.

It will be noted that the champion prefers Joe or Judah, but the contest is open to the five Continents; in fact, Tommy says, "Let 'em all come."

"I been at the game twenty-five years in England, been all that time with Joe," added Tommy, "and afore that I was in 42nd Street, Bowery, New York. That's where I learnt my profession."

Isaac Assenheim (b: 1858 in Edinburgh – d: 1940 in Roxburgh District Asylum)

This man was the son of Hyman/Henry Assenheim (1828- 1882) who sadly spent nearly 60 years in insane asylums. I don't know whether he was forgotten by his family or whether they visited him regularly either way his is a very sad story which I feel must be remembered. I have obtained his records and transcribed them as best I can.

Date Admitted	Admitted to	Date discharged	Discharged to
26/12/1880	Morningside	19/06/1885	Edinburgh Poor House
19/06/1885	Edinburgh Poor House	18/08/1885	To single patient (?)
25/05/1886	Edinburgh Poor House	16/05/1907	Edinburgh District Asylum
16/05/1907	Edinburgh District Asylum	15/02/1917	Midlothian District Asylum

GENERAL REGISTER OF
LUNATICS IN ASYLUMS.

Number in Order of Admission.	NAME.	Private.		Pauper.		Date of Admission.	Asylum.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.				
26,050	Isaac Assenheim			1		26	Morningside		
Date of Discharge or Death.	DISCHARGES.				Place to which removed.	To whose care removed.	Died.	Pauper Register. Vol. Folio.	OBSERVATIONS.
	Recovered.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	Incurable.					
19 June 1885					Edinburgh Poorhouse.			7 289	Trans from Morningside

Isaac Assenheim Admitted 26th December 1880 – Discharged 19th June 1885

GENERAL REGISTER OF
LUNATICS IN ASYLUMS.

Number in Order of Admission.	NAME.	Private.		Pauper.		Date of Admission.	Asylum.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.				
26,050	Isaac Assenheim			1			Edinburgh H.		
Date of Discharge or Death.	DISCHARGES.				Place to which removed.	To whose care removed.	Died.	Pauper Register. Vol. Folio.	OBSERVATIONS.
	Recovered.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	Incurable.					
18 Aug ^r 1885					Became Single Patient			7 289	Trans. 25 May 1885 from Edin ^r H.

Isaac Assenheim Admitted 19th June 1885 – Discharged 18th August 1885

GENERAL REGISTER OF
LUNATICS IN ASYLUMS.

Number in Order of Admission.	NAME.	Private.		Pauper.		Date of Admission.	Asylum.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.				
26,050	Isaac Assenheim			1			Edinburgh H.		
Date of Discharge or Death.	DISCHARGES.				Place to which removed.	To whose care removed.	Died.	Pauper Register. Vol. Folio.	OBSERVATIONS.
	Recovered.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	Incurable.					
16 May 1907					Edinburgh District Asylum			7 289	

Isaac Assenheim Admitted 19th June 1885 – Discharged 18th August 1885

GENERAL REGISTER OF
LUNATICS IN ASYLUMS.

Number in Order of Admission.	NAME.	Private.		Pauper.		Date of Admission.	Asylum.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.				
26,059	Isaac Assenheim			1			Morningside		
Date of Discharge or Death.	DISCHARGES.				Place to which removed.	To whose care removed.	Died.	Pauper Register. Vol. Folio.	OBSERVATIONS.
	Recovered.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	Incurable.					
15 Feb. 1917					Morningside			13 211	Trans from Morningside

Isaac Assenheim Admitted 16th May 1907 – Discharged 15th February 1917

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[FORM B³]

20 & 21 Vict., Cap. 71, Sect. 37. 36 234



7- 239

NOTICE OF ADMISSION.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, That ⁽¹⁾ *Isaac Assenheim* was received into this House as a ⁽²⁾ *pauper* Patient on the *Twenty sixth* ⁽³⁾ day of *December, 1880,* and I hereby transmit a Copy of the Order and Medical Certificate and Statement on which he was received.

Subjoined is a Report with respect to the mental and bodily condition of the above-named Patient.

J. Johnston M.D. Superintendent.

DATED at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, this *31st* ⁽⁴⁾ day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and *eighty* years.

To the Secretary of the
General Board of Lunacy.

REPORT.

I HAVE this day ⁽⁴⁾ seen and personally examined *Isaac Assenheim,* the Patient named in the above Notice, and hereby report and certify, with respect to *his* mental state, that ⁽⁵⁾ *he labours under mania,*

and with respect to *his* bodily health and condition, that ⁽⁶⁾ *they are weak.*

Paulle Johnston
⁽⁷⁾ *Assistant Physician*

DATED this *31st* day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and *eighty* years.

- (1) Name and Designation.
- (2) Private or Pauper.
- (3) Some day within fourteen days after the date of the Order of the Sheriff; or within twenty-one days, if the Order be granted by the Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland.
- (4) Some day not less than two clear days after the admission of the Patient, and before the expiration of fourteen clear days after admission.
- (5) Insert particulars.
- (6) Insert particulars.
- (7) Add Designation.

20 & 21 Vict., Cap. 71, Sect. 37.

NOTICE OF ADMISSION

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, That ⁽¹⁾ **Isaac Assenheim** was received into the House as a ⁽²⁾ **pauper** Patient on the **twenty sixth** ⁽³⁾ day of **December, 1880**, and I hereby transmit a Copy of the Order and Medical Certificate and Statement on which he was received. Subjoined is a Report with respect to the mental and bodily condition of the above-named Patient.

XXXXXXXXXX Superintendent.

Dated at **The Royal Edinburgh Asylum** this **31st** ⁽⁴⁾ day of **December** One thousand eight hundred **eighty years**.

To the Secretary of the
General Board of Lunacy.

REPORT.

I have this day ⁽⁴⁾ seen and personally examined **Isaac Assenheim**. The Patient named in the above Notice, and hereby report and certify, with respect to **his** mental state, that ⁽⁵⁾ **he labours under mania**, and with respect to **his** bodily health and condition, that ⁽⁶⁾ **they are weak**.

XXXXXXXXXXXX
⁽⁷⁾ Assistant Physician

Dated this **31st** day of **December** One thousand eight hundred and **eighty years**.

- ⁽¹⁾ Name and designation.
- ⁽²⁾ Private or Pauper.
- ⁽³⁾ Some day within fourteen days after the date of the order of the Sheriff, or within twenty one days, if the Order be grated by the Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Some day not less than two clear days after the admission of the Patient, and before the expiration of fourteen clear days after admission.
- ⁽⁵⁾ Insert particulars.
- ⁽⁶⁾ Insert particulars.
- ⁽⁷⁾ Add designation.

(Copies.)

25 & 26 Vict., Cap. 54, Sect. 16.

APPLICATION TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF LUNACY TO GRANT
TRANSFER OF A PATIENT FROM ONE ASYLUM TO ANOTHER.

(*) If Lunatic is not a Pauper; detained at my instance, or whose nearest known relative I am. If Lunatic is a Pauper; a Pauper Lunatic of the Parish of which I am Inspector of Poor.

I, the undersigned George Greig, Inspector of Poor City Parish of Edinburgh
being desirous to transfer Isaac Assenheim,
at present a Patient in the Inverness District Asylum
Pauper Lunatic of the Parish of which I am Inspector and
of Poor from the said Asylum to
Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, hereby request the authority
the Board to such transfer; and I subjoin a Statement of Particulars regarding the same
Isaac Assenheim and a Medical Certificate with
respect to his mental and bodily condition.

(*) State degree of Relationship, or other capacity in which Applicant stands to Patient.

G. Greig, Inspector of Poor City
parish of Edinburgh
DATED at Edinburgh this 24th day of December
One thousand eight hundred and Eighty years.

STATEMENT.

If any of the Particulars in this Statement be not known, the fact to be so stated.

- 1. Christian Name and Surname of Patient at length, } Isaac Assenheim
- 2. Sex and Age, } Male aged 22 years
- 3. Married, Single, or Widowed, } Single
- 4. Condition of Life, and previous Occupation (if any), } Travelling Hawker
- 5. Religious Persuasion, so far as known, } Not known
- 6. Date of Admission into Asylum, } 13 Nov 1880
- 7. Length of time Insane, } Three days
- 8. Whether first Attack, } Two years ago had an attack
- 9. Age (if known) on first Attack, } 20 years
- 10. Duration of existing Attack, } Three days
- 11. Supposed Cause, } Not known
- 12. Whether subject to Epilepsy, } No
- 13. Whether Suicidal, } Yes
- 14. Whether Dangerous to others, } Yes
- 15. Parish to which the Lunatic (if a Pauper) is Chargeable, } City Parish of Edinburgh
- 16. Christian Name and Surname, and Place of Abode of nearest known Relative of the Patient, and degree of Relationship (if known), and whether any Member of Family known to be or to have been Insane, } Henry Assenheim, Father residence unknown

I certify, that, to the best of my knowledge, the above particulars are correctly stated.

DATED this 24th day of December One thousand eight hundred and Eighty
G. Greig, Insp

N.B.—The foregoing particulars are required for the information of the authorities to whose care the Patient is to be transferred.

APPLICATION TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF LUNACY TO GRANT
TRANSFER OF A PATIENT FROM ONE ASYLUM TO ANOTHER.

I, the undersigned **George Greig. Inspector of Poor City Parish of Edinburgh**
Being desirous to transfer **Isaac Assenheim**

At present a Patient in **The Inverness District Asylum, and Pauper Lunatic of**
the Parish of which I am Inspector of Poor

----- from the
said asylum to the **Royal Edinburgh Asylum**, hereby request the authority of the Board to
such transfer; and I subjoin a Statement of Particulars regarding the said **Isaac Assenheim** and
a Medical Certificate with respect to **his** mental and bodily condition.

G. Greig Inspector of Poor for (2) parish of
Edinburgh

Dated at **24th** this **24th** day of **December** One thousand eight hundred **eighty years.**

STATEMENT

If any of the Particulars in this Statement be not known, the fact to be so stated.

1. Christian Name and Surname of Patient at length	}	Isaac Assenheim
2. Sex and Age	}	Male aged 22 years
3. Married, Single or Widowed	}	Single
4. Condition of Life, and previous Occupation (if any),	}	Travelling Hawker
5. Religious Persuasion, so far as known	}	Not known
6. Date of Admission into Asylum,	}	13 Nov 1880
7. Length of time Insane,	}	Three days
8. Whether first Attack,	}	Two years ago had an attack
9. Age (if known) on first Attack,	}	20 years
10. Duration of existing Attack,	}	Three days
11. Supposed Cause,	}	Not known
12. Whether subject to Epilepsy,	}	No
13. Whether Suicidal,	}	Yes
14. Whether Dangerous to others,	}	Yes
15. Parish to which the lunatic (if a Pauper) Is Chargeable	}	City Parish of Edinburgh
16. Christian Name and Surname, and Place of Abode of nearest known Relative of the Patient, and degree of Relationship (if known), and whether any Member of Family known to be or to have been Insane,	}	Henry Assenheim, Father residence unknown

I certify, that, to the best of my knowledge, the above particulars are correctly stated.

G. Greig Inspector

Dated this 24th day of **December** One thousand eight hundred eighty years.

N.B.- The forgoing particulars are required for the information of the authorities to whose care the Patient is to be transferred.