

The Assenheim Family - Interesting Facts



How many of these people are Assenheims or just workers I don't know

Assenheim is not a surname like others developed over time from an occupation or characteristic of the person but simply the place where the early people came from i.e., the town of Assenheim which is near Frankfurt in Germany.

The earliest member of this family that we know is Yehuda Assenheim who was born in 1740 in Assenheim-im-Niddatal, near Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. Which is where I presume, he spent his whole life as he died there.

Yehuda or Judah's son, Levij Judah Assenheim, was also born in Assenheim, Germany, in about 1760, but lived for much of his life in Amsterdam. At least two of his children, Solomon and Isadore, went to England but it is not known whether Levij went too, or any other members of the family.

In September 1809, Levij was being supported by the Jewish authorities when he, his wife and 6 of his 7 surviving children were living in Amsterdam. His trade at the time was old cloth (oude kled) but he did have a previous occupation of Hotel Keeper, possibly this was back in Germany. Levij's eldest surviving son, Solomon, probably already lived abroad at that time, more than likely he was in England.

It seems that Levij and his family were relative newcomers to Amsterdam; around 1780-1790 and that they had strong links abroad - most likely in England and probably still in Assenheim, Germany itself. Bearing in mind that the Anglo-Dutch wars ended in 1784 the links between Holland and England can only have been made after this time.

It is likely that Levij and his family were Ashkenazi Jews (Documents). Levij and his wife Judic (nee Akkerman) had seven children, all born in Amsterdam, and they were living at Marken 137 (an island incorporated in the city of Amsterdam) when, on January 13, 1812, Levij Juda took the civil name of Assenheimer, pursuant to the Napoleonic decree that everybody had to have a surname.

Lots of people used the name of the place they came from for their surnames. To begin with this family would probably have been known as e.g., Levij of Assenheim. Eventually the 'of' would have been dropped.

Sadly, it seems that 4 of their children died very young, 3 of these were boys, but we don't have names for these, and the 1 girl who was called Schoontje. The children were all buried in the Zeeburg cemetery (Documents): a son on June 2, 1791, a son on March 16, 1795, a stillborn baby boy on January 16, 1799, and a daughter on December 24, 1807 called Schoontje (Dutch for Sheina).

The Assenheims obviously suffered from 'itchy' feet as some of their descendents carried on travelling and finished in Scotland; others went even further and ended in Australia.

In 1882 Hannah Assenheim (1860 – 1882) died aged 22. On her death entry it states that the cause of her death was Carbonic Oxide Poisoning. This would mean she died by accident, suicide or murder. In the left-hand margin, it seems to refer to a coroner's report. It would be interesting to see a copy of that report to see what the verdict was.

I couldn't find a death entry for Sarah Assenheim (nee Van De Kar, ABT 1817 – N/K), the wife of Judah Assenheim (1819 – 1888), nor could I find her after the 1881 census. I did find the entry below which may have been for her but I cannot be sure.

4th Quarter 1883 District London C. Vol. 1c Page 4

Ranah Assenheim died (aged 69)

Sarah Assenheim (1869 – N/K) married Henry Defries in either 1896 or 1897, as shown below. But why is she still with her Assenheim family in the 1901 and 1911 censuses?

1st Quarter 1896 District Whitechapel Vol. 1c Page 363

Sarah Assenheim married Henry Defries

OR

3rd Quarter 1897 District London C. Vol. 1c Page 111

Sarah Assenheim married Henry Defries

Judah Assenheim (1870 – 1930) married Esther Nathan (1871 - 1909) in 1896 and it is interesting to note that his mother's maiden name was Nathan. What was the relationship between his mother and his wife?

After Esther Assenheim (nee Nathan, 1871 – 1909) died her husband, Judah Assenheim (1870 – 1930) married Esther's sister Fanny Nathan (1877 - 1942) in 1916.

This family have yet more examples of 2 brothers marrying 2 sisters as in 1900 Joseph Assenheim (1880 – 1944) married Pheobe De Haan (1880 – 1944) and in 1902 Solomon Assenheim (1881 – 1958) married Mary De Haan (1881 – 1957) and in 1924 Isaac Assenheim (1897 – 1983) married Esther Block (1899 – 1983) and in 1929 another Joseph Assenheim (1905 – 1988) married Marie Block (1903 – 1985).

Joseph Assenheim (1849 – 1916) and his wife Leah Assenheim (nee Alluert, 1854 - 1942), according to the 1911 census, had 17 children, 5 of which had died in infancy. This must be some sort of a record. One of their children, Philip, was sadly killed during WW1 but he had joined up under the name of Philip Hart. My husband, Bob, suggested that the reason for this maybe that he thought that if he had been captured he didn't want to have a German sounding name. I suppose this is a mystery that may never be solved.

There must be some sort of a connection between our Assenheim family and the Hart family as the Hart name keeps cropping up over and over again. Here are 3 examples:

In 1910 Sarah Assenheim, the daughter of Solomon Assenheim, married Harry Hart. Philip Assenheim, when he joined the army for the First World War used the surname, Hart. 'Hettie' Assenheim married William Isaac Hart Collins.

It would be interesting to know when/why Harry Sydney Assenheim (1897 – 1979) started using the surname Anderson, in fact, his second marriage, in 1936, was entered twice once under each surname.

I have been unable to definitely find Isaac (Isadore) Assenheim (1796 – 1870) in the 1841 census but I did find a possible entry for him in Liverpool (see below).

Living in Pellew Street, Liverpool, Lancashire (HO107/710/11 Folio 26 Page 4) (name entered as Assinam)

Isaac Assenheim b: 1833

On this 1841 census entry this man was a foreigner, which would explain the incorrect spelling of the name, as Isaac was born in Holland he probably had a bit of an accent, and the age is about right. Unfortunately, this man has no occupation shown. As I can't confirm that this is our man I can't put him in the main document.

Hyman/Henry Assenheim (1828 – 1882) was married many times, I found 4, the first marriage I found for him was in 1855 to a Jessie McKenna but then I found another marriage to Jane MacKenzie in 1856. It is possible that Jessie died but I couldn't find a death entry. So, it's Jane who appears with Hyman in the 1861 census.

In the 1871 census, Hyman/Henry Assenheim (1828 – 1882) was alone although it does say that he was married. Also, it says that he was born in Austria – Hungary instead of Plymouth, I wonder why. I could not find any other Assenheims in Scotland in the 1871 census.

Isaac Assenheim (1858 – 1940), one of Hyman Assenheim's children, spent most of his life in institutions having been first admitted to the Edinburgh Insane Asylum in 1880 at the age of only 22 and remaining in various places until his death in 1940 at the age of 82.

For the 1861, 1871 and 1881 censuses Charlotte Assenheim (1835 – 1909) was living as Charlotte Ryan, the wife of Daniel Thomas Ryan, although they did not marry until 1888. However, they did have at least 7 children before they married, some of whom were registered as Assenheim and some as Ryan.

In the 1881 census, living in the same house as Aaron Assenheim and his family is a James Assenheim (1850) with his family. I cannot find James before 1881 or any of them afterwards so I assume they either emigrated or changed their name. I do not know who the parents of James were although he must be related as he was living with Aaron in 1881.

Beatrice Assenheim (1888 – 1969) had 2 illegitimate children Evelyn, born 1913, and Albert Symon, born 1914. On Evelyn's birth entry it states: "Paternity of child found by decree of court. Reg. of Bar (?) Entries Vol. 24 Page 139 20th February 1914".

Sadly, Evelyn died in 1916, aged only 2, from: "Extensive burns of 1-2-3-4 degree shock".

Was this another sad case of a child's clothes catching fire when they went too close to an open fire at home? There was probably a Coroner's inquest into this death and there may have been an article in a local, Aberdeen, newspaper.