



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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How have we kept faith?, undated.

How Have WE Kept Faith.

1. Then Loyalty and Service.

2. Service Began long before 1776. —

1. Discovery — Santangel — Sanchez — 2nd Exped.

Tears — | Zauto — Luis de Torres — Surgeon —

Columbus himself — Rejoice Knights —

marvellous coincidence — Aug. 3, 1492 —

WE saved them

2. Colonization. Not new comers — 20 yrs. after

discovery in W. Hem — before Eng. after 17th century

72 — 134 yrs. after Pelgrim — 1654.

New Amsterdam — 23 — Peter Minnis.

United West India Co — Anson Terry —

Jews in Penn. before W. Penn. — 1

Georgia, 1733. 40 yrs — Philip Minnis —

3. Revolution. 1765. Non-Importation Act

2500 Suck — 27 officers — Haym Salomon

\$200,000 — 1812; 1848 —

4. Civil War — Only 150,000 Jews in Am —

7500 — Soldiers

40 Majors

9 — Generals

204 Captains

15 — Colonels

325 Lieut.

8 — Lieut. Col.

48 Adjutants.

25 Surgeons

Spanish War. 7000 Volunteers.

5. World War. 150,000 Soldiers, not Barth.

- Temple 170 Stars —
In Educat. Schools. Rehab

6. Industry - Commerce - Pioneering -
We kept Faith This record rehearsed
not to win approbation - or Toleration -
Resent - won.

7. Our larger Contributions. Spirit.

1. Pilgrim Spirit - O.T.

2. During Revl. united O.T. St. Paul & Sea.

3. First great Seal 1776. Adams

4. Liberty Bell -

5. Liberty - (grove)

8. What has been given to us.

Took us refugees - gave a home -
Tired hearts - rest.

Peace & shelter - when hungry -
hand free from yellow badge etc.

9. What then shall we continue to keep Faith

1. To go on with our fellow-citizens
- loyalty & service.

a - Protect - free without murder,
alert citizenship.

b. Protect against causing Mutualism
- taxity corruption - Hebraic
Spirit.

c. Protect the united J Hebrew
Tolerance - rel. to revel.
was who inspired most P. leader.

Gay will - Melting pot



...when the record of
...and all of progress is being limned in Philadelphia.

7 Few in number were the Jews in the Thirteen Colonies at the time when Jefferson drafted and the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Yet they had already been cradled in the spirit which was destined to make the American nation a new thing under the world's political sun. The Old Testament was from the beginning the source of inspiration for the civil and political ideals that motivated the Puritan Fathers. They modeled their Commonwealth on the theocratic principles of Jewish Scripture. They assured the permanency of the American form of government because they builded it upon the strong foundations of liberty and morals as these are commanded in Holy Writ.

41 5 NO wonder that upon the Liberty Bell was inscribed the thrilling quotation from Leviticus: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." It was with premeditation that upon the first seal of these United States was graven the imagery of the Israelites Crossing the Red Sea, leaving tyranny and oppression behind, and emerging upon the sunlit shore of Freedom. Lecky, the historian, well said: "It is an historical fact that in the great majority of instances the early (American) defenders of civil liberty derived their political principles chiefly from the Old Testament," and summarized his verdict on the origins of our national life with the declaration: "Jewish mortar cemented the foundations of American democracy."

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...k, his personal belonging having been taken from him by the ship to defray the expense of his passage.

But neither poverty nor persecution could intimidate Asser Levy. He laughed both to scorn. He was a character, lovable and unique. He was by turns butcher, tavern-keeper, dealer in real-estate, business agent, and trader in almost anything and everything. But, above all, he is held in grateful remembrance as the first champion of Jewish rights in America. When Gov. Stuyvesant denied his petition to stand guard duty in lieu of paying a certain tax, which he felt he could not afford to pay, Asser Levy insisted upon his rights as a burgher of old Amsterdam to be exempt from the tax by serving as a guardsman. And when Peter Stuyvesant persisted in denying him this right, he appealed to the Holland authorities who decided in his favor.

Asser Levy was as poor as the proverbial church-mouse when he came to the new colony. But his indomitable will and enterprise soon gained for him preferment and prosperity. By the time that the British captured the city in 1664, he was rated as a man of considerable wealth. He was beloved both by his fellow-Jews and his Gentile neighbors. He purchased the site on which the first synagogue in America was built. And he advanced a loan for the building of the first Lutheran Church in New York.

Among the Jewish emigrants from Holland, who came to New Amsterdam early in 1655, was a wealthy merchant, Joseph da Costa. He owned big shares in the Dutch West India Company and had been a leading member of the Amsterdam synagogue, from which his brother, the celebrated Uriel Acosta (1591-1647), had been excommunicated and driven to suicide for preaching doctrines inimical to Orthodox Judaism.

Both in colonial and Revolutionary times the Jews in New York were chiefly occupied in commerce and trade. Louis Moses Gomez (1654-1740)

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