

**Rhode Island
Historical Society**

Gift of the Author,

Samuel Broches

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**J E W S
I N N E W E N G L A N D**

SIX MONOGRAPHS

II

*JEWISH MERCHANTS
I N C O L O N I A L R H O D E I S L A N D*

BY

S. BROCHES



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I A.B. Do truly and sincerely Acknowledge, Profess, Testify and Declare in my Conscience, before GOD and the World, That Our Sovereign Lord KING GEORGE the Third, is Lawful and Rightful KING of this Realm, and all other His Majesty's Dominions and Countries thereunto belonging. And I do solemnly and sincerely declare, That I do believe in my Conscience, That the Person pretended to be the Prince of Wales, during the Life of our late King GEORGE, and since his death pretending to be, and taking upon himself, the Style and Title of KING of England, by the Name of James the Third, or of Scotland, by the Name of James the Eighth, or the Style and Title of KING of Great Britain, hath not any Right, or Title whatsoever to the Crown of this Realm, or any other the Dominions thereto belonging. And I do Renounce, Repudiate and Abjure any Allegiance or Obedience to him. And I do swear, That I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to His Majesty KING GEORGE the Third, and I will defend to the utmost of my Power against all Treasonous Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against His Person, Crown or Dignity. And I will do my utmost Endeavour to disclose and make known to His Majesty and His Successors, all Treasons and Treasonous Conspiracies, which I shall know to be against Him, or any of them. And I do faithfully promise to the utmost of my Power to Support, Maintain and Defend the Succession of the Crown, against him the said James, and all other Persons whatsoever, which Succession, by an Act entitled, *An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown, and better Securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject*, is and shall be limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress and Dutchess Dowager of Hannover, and the Heirs of Her Body, being Protestants. And all these Things I do plainly and sincerely Acknowledge and swear, according to the express Words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common sense and Understanding of the same Words, without any Evasocation, mental Reservation, or secret Reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recognition, Acknowledgement, Abjuration, Renunciation and Promise, heartily, willingly and truly, *upon the true Faith of a Christian*.

So Help me GOD.

James O'Connell

I A.B. Do sincerely Promise and Swear, That I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to his Majesty King George the Third. So help me God.

James O'Connell

I A.B. Do swear, That I do from my heart, abhor, detest and abjure as Impious and damnable, that damnable Doctrine and Position, that Princes excommunicated, or deposed by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever. And I do declare, that no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Supremacy, Pre-eminence or Authority, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual, within the Realm of Great Britain. So help me God.

James O'Connell

Province of Massachusetts Bay

I do hereby certify that the three Oaths on the other side hereof are agreeable to the Form prescribed in an Act of Parliament of the first of George the First intitaled "An Act for the further Security of his Majestys Person and Government and the Succession of the Crown in the Heirs of the late Princess Sophia being Protestants, and for extinguishing the Hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open secret Abettors — as inserted in the Statutes at large in the Secretarys Office in Boston

Compared by me A. Oliver Sec

Supreme Court Files

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

(I have not repeated here history which is already accessible in printed sources. Nor have I attempted to present a connected narrative of the history of the Newport Jewish community. I have tried rather to give a background so that the significance of documents and records which are here offered to the public for the first time may be readily understood.)

The first half of the seventeenth century saw the beginning of all the New England Colonies. Rhode Island was founded neither because the Pilgrims sought a place of refuge from religious persecution in England, nor because a wealthy company of merchants aimed at exploiting the New World. It was founded because the persecuted and the hounded in this New World itself needed a haven of security where they might create a new way of life of religious liberty. This latter principle was the foundation stone of the constitution of Rhode Island.

Even in the New World there was religious persecution! For the Puritans, themselves but recently escaped from oppression in the Old Country, lost no time in the oppressing of those in the new continent who differed from their religious conceptions. Quakers, Anabaptists, and other sects found refuge in Rhode Island. Along with them, as a matter of course, came Jews, who settled in the city of Newport as early as 1658 to seek freedom and peace.

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The initial Jewish settlement, consisting of only fifteen families, strove valiantly to strike root, ordering their new existence with a hope of economic permanency and of enduring social and cultural institutions. At an early date they met at the home of one of their number, *Mordecai Campanal*, to organize a Minyan — a Jewish prayer group. Meetings for social and philanthropic purposes were likewise held here and were termed "Masonic" in the little community.

Naturally, these first Jewish families, poor and few in number, could exert little influence upon their neighbors. But they laid the foundations on which were to arise mighty merchants who later wielded so tremendous an influence and contributed so materially not only to the growth of Rhode Island and of New England, but to the commercial success which made the American Colonies important.

First came years of unceasing fight for existence for all colonists until almost a century passed in the struggle against nature's elements, against hunger and hardships, before the beginnings of organized social and cultural life began to take permanent shape. Added to the dangers from hostile Indian neighbors, England's wars with Spain, France, and Holland for mastery in the New World were necessarily reflected in limitations and conflicts imposed on the New England Colonies, which were intent primarily on the peaceful pursuit of their own ends. The obligation to supply the Crown with men and materials imposed upon them a heavy burden of debt. For the small, insignificant Jewish group in Rhode Island, existence had still added difficulties. Although this Colony afforded Jews religious liberty, they were still tolerated there merely as strangers. At one time attempts were even made to apply to them the laws against strangers. However, as is well known, the courts defeated such attempts, even though they refused

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Jews citizenship. Newly enacted English navigation laws imposed severe restrictions upon non-citizens. In spite of such stumbling blocks the Jews slowly succeeded in establishing roots in Newport, until at last, by the purchase of land upon which was established a cemetery, there was a recognized symbol of their recognition as fellow colonists.

What became of the first group of Rhode Island Jewish pioneers? Did more Jews arrive to swell their ranks? Did the Jewish population in Rhode Island increase naturally? There is a report to the effect that in the 1690's a group of Jews from the West Indies arrived in Newport. The reliable evidence indicates only that a group of Jews did leave the West Indies en route for Rhode Island, but the records are blank as to their arrival. There is no reliable record to indicate how many Jews resided in Colonial Rhode Island at the end of the seventeenth century. We learn that a license for some purpose not specified was granted to *Abraham Campanal* at a Town Meeting the citizens of Newport held in 1688. There is mention of a *Daniel Campanal* who, in 1700, was fined 8 pounds and 15 shillings for misdemeanor. Unquestionably, individual Jews did join the Newport Colony from time to time. *Isaac Naphthali* and his wife and son, *Abraham Naphthali*, are recorded as living in Newport in 1695. Early records of the seventeenth century are singularly silent regarding the Newport Jews, both of earliest as well as those of later migrations. There has always been considerable question about the size of the Newport Jewish Community since the time when the Reverend Ezra Stiles wrote in his diary, "There are fifteen Jewish families in Newport; they have no minister . . ." No census is available, so we can only guess. New Newport Jewish names are frequently cropping up to add to the count of the community. It is, therefore, always interesting to examine an enumeration of names.

Between the years 1740 and 1760 some of the Jewish merchants mentioned as residing in Newport include Judah Israel, Solomon Hays, Isachar Polack, Isaac Polock (otherwise called Isaac Polock of Perth Amboy), Tuchar Polock (otherwise Tachia Polock of Rhode Island), Moses Lopez, Henry Myers, Saul Abrahams, Jacob Franks, Abraham Hart, Zacharia Polock, Jacob Juda, Israel Abrahams, Esther Abrahams, widow of Isaac Abrahams, late of N. Y., Aaron Cardozo, James Lucena, Abraham the Jew Periwig maker, Naphthali Hart, Naphthali Hart Myers, Isaac Hart, and Samuel Hart. Samuel Hart is mentioned as early as 1743 as a merchant of Newport, but apparently he returned to New York, for later Newport records mention him in 1751 as a merchant of New York. This list contains only the names of those merchants mentioned in the Newport courts. Other Jewish merchants were lucky enough to have kept out of court. Doubtless, as we know, other Jews, not engaged in commerce, but as workmen, clerks, and so on, leave so little in the way of records behind them that it is almost impossible to identify them or even to estimate their numbers. Together with the women and children, they are lost to history unless by chance we run across names in some other connection. Thus, we have found mention of a few additional Jewish names. Zachariah Cohen was married to one Eleanor Phillips by the Rev. James Searing in 1735. Perhaps this is the Zachariah Cohen who was found listed as a gunner in the sloop "Queen of Hungary" in 1744 from Newport. In 1746 one Israel Abrahams with his mother and entire family were "warned out" of Newport, and returned to their earlier home in New York. In 1750 "two Jews at Risby's" are mentioned, as well as "Hart the never-beaten Jew so called". The fact that the Jewish community of Newport was regarded as large is attested by the practice of ship captains transporting Jewish passengers

to Newport on their own responsibility on the speculation that they would collect the passage money out of its Jewish community on whose philanthropy they and their poor passengers could rely. Thus, Captain Isaac Cowdry brought to Newport a mentally deficient or unbalanced Jew from the West Indies — "distracted" the court record has it — but the city authorities there intervened and ordered that he must be deported at Captain Cowdry's expense.

By the first half of the eighteenth century New York Jewish merchants had already developed an active trade with Newport and we find some of them settling there. Later they bought houses, built ships, and developed an extensive trade with the West Indies, with England, and other European countries.

The beginning of the eighteenth century is the period of Newport's flourishing era. This was the time when Newport was considered New England's leading port for the negro slave trade. England encouraged the Colonial slave trade by every means, since it produced considerable revenue for her treasury. In its circular to the Colonies in 1703 the English Board of Trade openly admitted its keen interest in the development of this nefarious traffic. Newport itself reaped prosperity from the traffic in slaves: For each slave imported a tax of three English pounds was paid. This tax was not abolished until 1732. With the growth of this trade Newport grew apace. The census of 1703 showed a population for Rhode Island of 7,781 — 1,446 in Providence, and 2,203 in Newport. Kingston and the remaining six towns numbered between 200 and 600 each. By 1730 the population had increased to 17,935, including 1,648 negroes and 985 Indians. Of the total population, over a quarter, 6,640, lived in Newport.

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As the eighteenth century began, Newport was regarded as one of the most important Colonial ports for foreign trade. Its ships sailed every sea, trading in all corners of the world in spite of the attempts of the English to confine colonial commerce to its own markets. The Newport Jewish merchants played a leading and very important part in this commerce with their well established ties in the West Indies and all the other Colonies, as well as in England. At this period the West Indies were so prosperous as to be an especially attractive market. Their crops produced large returns in ready money. Imported merchandise sold freely, for the West Indies had to rely on others to supply all their needs for manufactured goods. Jewish communities grew rich from their varied and numerous commercial and agricultural activities scattered throughout the islands, so that they were among the first in the western world to establish religious and communal institutions. These Jewish merchants conducted a lively trade, spreading well beyond the American Colonies, into Holland, the French Colonies, the Spanish main — even into China and India. From Curacao, Martinique, Barbados, Surinam and Jamaica, in fact from every port in the Caribbean Sea, Jewish merchants sent so many ships to Gentile as well as Jewish merchant-traders that their rivals often complained bitterly that they were monopolizing the West India trade.

Many of these vessels of Jewish ownership were seized by the numerous pirates, or privateersmen, who sailed the Western Main and brought them captive to the American colonies, especially to Rhode Island and Connecticut. Thus, the ship "Greyhound" was captured by pirates and brought into Newport in 1723. A Jew named Jacob Lopez was killed by the pirates.

In the year 1742 the ship "Three Brothers" owned by Benjamin Moter (La Mote) and his three sons, Aaron,

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Abraham and Moses of Curacao, was brought in as a prize to Newport by Captain Flowers.

In the year 1747 the ship "Joung Johannes", property of Joshua Henriques, Junior, a Jewish merchant of Curacao, was also brought in as a prize to Newport.

When privateers seized with the ship "Pearl" two West Indies Jews, Emanuel Alvares Correa and Moses Cardozo, the well known merchant, Abraham Hart of Newport, appeared in court to guarantee the lawful sailing of their vessel and demanded that it be turned over to him. He offered as surety during the investigation a sum amounting to twice the value of the ship, its cargo, and court costs. This indicates the wealth and standing in the Newport community of its Jewish merchants at the time, as well as the close ties between Jewish merchants there and those of the West Indies.

At this time the Colonies had not yet begun to engage in manufacture, but depended almost wholly upon the importers to supply their needs. Privateering was a legitimate and profitable enterprise so long as only enemy ships were seized. Hence, there was a constantly increasing demand for ships. The Jews built and sailed ships both for commercial purposes, as well as for privateering. Oversea commerce was at best a hazardous undertaking, involving great speculation. Trading was largely conducted on credit. The West Indies planters demanded a two years' credit leaving the seller by no means sure of payments when the term expired. Then, too, pirates and privateers added to the trade risk, for every government, French, Dutch, Spanish and English, struggling incessantly for mastery in the New World, freely chartered privateers which too often became nothing more than licensed pirates.

As heavily-laden, Jewish-owned ships went forth to many distant ports, and ports in both Americas, returning

filled with the wares needed at home, the Jewish merchants of Newport played a major role in the development of all Colonial trade. As early as 1743, Nathan Nathans and Israel Abrahams sent their ship, "Rotterdam", to the West Indies with a cargo of goods.

In 1743, Moses Mendes and Abraham Pereira Musquita, with a third, non-Jewish partner, fitted out the "New Exchange" as a privateer, armed with twelve "carriage" guns, twelve "swivel" guns, and a crew of eighteen.

In 1746 Abraham Hart fitted out the vessel, "Defiance", as a privateer armed with fourteen "carriage" guns, twenty-two "swivel" guns and having a crew of 110 men.

In 1747 Moses Levey, with two non-Jewish partners, fitted out the privateer, "Mary and Ann". So also in the same year Naphthali Hart fitted out the "King George". Moses Lopez, with two partners, fitted out the privateer "Rebecca" in 1748. In the four year period between 1758 and 1762, the Jewish merchants, Naphthali, Isaac, and Abraham Hart, fitted out the following privateering vessels: "General Webb", "Defiance", "Perfect Union", "Dolphin", "Confirmation", "Diamond", "Rising Sun", "Lord Howe", and "Rabbit". In the year 1758 Moses Levy likewise fitted out the ship "General Well".

In such undertakings these Newport Jews often turned to their New York connections for financial help or to join them in the enterprise. Among those with whom we so meet from New York are Moses Levy, Judah Hays, Myers Cohen, Moses Franks, Jacob Hays, Samuel Myers Cohen, Jacob Isaacs, Aaron Isaacs, as well as David Franks of Philadelphia.

To what extent Jewish merchants were reckoned with in Newport can be seen from the following city ordinances: In 1742 a tax committee was charged with the duty of determining who was to pay taxes, and how much. On its

list were four Jews whose taxes ranked high. Another record names Jews proposed to be made "freemen", that is, citizens. Moses Lopez became naturalized in 1750, James Lucena in 1751, Judah Franck of West Greenwich in 1755. In 1756, at a town meeting in Newport, Jacob Isaacs was proposed for naturalization. At a similar meeting in 1757 Naphthali and Isaac Hart were proposed. In 1761 Aaron Lopez and Moses Levy were proposed as freemen, even though the General Assembly refused to grant them citizenship.

As opportunity offered, the Jewish merchants of Newport bought land and houses, especially along the water front, where wharves afforded facilities for their ships. As early as 1731 Naphthali Hart bought two parcels of land on "East Point", each with a frontage of 50 by 100 feet. For these he paid to one Suthit Longworth £380. In 1749 Moses Lopez bought both land and houses from William Earl for the sum of £2,000. Other Jewish merchants likewise bought land, until at one time the greater part of East Point belonged to the Jews.

Merchants, Jewish or Gentile, not themselves ship captains or navigators, had to rely on captains to sail their vessels and, in distant ports, to sell their merchandise as their factors. These captains not only sold the merchandise, but bought or traded for return cargoes of various descriptions as varied and miscellaneous as imagination or chance afforded. Crews and captains were often partners in such enterprises. Naturally such a situation afforded ample opportunity for litigation. In 1743 in the Newport Court their respective captains were summoned to court to answer to complaints of Nathan Nathans, Israel Abrahams and the well known New York merchant, Moses Levy. By 1749 the Jewish merchant, Aaron Lopez, was generally considered as one of the largest merchants in the country.

The spermaceti or sperm oil trust, the great monopoly which controlled the whaling, oil, and candle industries not only of New England, but extended its influence into New York and as far as Philadelphia, was said to have been the brain child of Jacob Rodriguez Rivera — at least he obviously was the mainstay and certainly the moving spirit of that successful octopus.

The Jew, Levy, obtained a patent for a ship, "Raft", which had been built specially to export wood to England. Her capacity was only of one hundred and sixty tons, yet she could be loaded to the extent of over twelve hundred tons. This must have been one of the earliest American patents.

For half a century before the English occupation of Newport in 1775, the town occupied a prominent position both in Colonial industry and commerce. There were twelve breweries. Seventeen factories were busy manufacturing spermaceti and candles. There were three sugar refineries and five cord factories. In the period of 25 years ending October 10, 1769, over 3,000 hogsheads of molasses had been imported.

Between 1750 and 1775 the number of Jewish merchants increased rapidly. Many of the New York Jews who had had business relations with Newport took residence there, where they were joined by fellow religionists from the West Indies. The erection of the synagogue attracted Jews from other localities. Many gifts from distant countries were received by the synagogue. For example, Abraham Solomon from St. Eustace sent a letter of apology to Naphthali Hart in 1762 because his wife had sent an insignificant gift to the synagogue. He promises to send a more valuable gift when the next occasion should arise. When the synagogue was completed, the city gave it recognition by naming the street upon which it faced Jews'

Street. The laws pertaining to foreigners were eased, so that newcomers were permitted to remain as permanent residents and even to buy land after a stay of one month.

The Jews, even apart from their synagogue, had an organized social life. A club, governed by a constitution consisting of fourteen paragraphs and signed by Moses Lopez, Isaac Pollock, Jacob Isaacs, Abraham Sarzedas, Naphthali Hart, Moses Levy, Isaachar Pollock, Naphthali Hart, Junior, and Jacob Rodriguez Rivera, was organized. The club's by-laws reflected the circumstances of these Jewish merchants. The first by-law provided that the meetings of the club take place every Wednesday evening during the winter season. The chairman of the club was elected by a majority vote of the members and held office for the period of four Wednesdays only. New members were accepted only by consent of the entire club. Guests were permitted at the meetings, but only one at a time. Meetings lasted from five o'clock until ten in the evening, with the following rules: Between five and eight o'clock card-playing was permitted. But in order that the club should not gain ill repute, the stakes for whist were limited to from five to twenty shillings, likewise for "pica" and any other game of hazard. Anyone playing for higher stakes was to be fined a bottle of wine or the purchase money thereof. Eight o'clock was supper time, and at ten the club-rooms were closed. No member could offer any proposal until the chairman had first drunk a toast of loyalty. Any member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without furnishing cogent reasons was to be excluded from the club for that winter.

As is to be expected from those engaged in such hazardous undertakings in such speculative times where any miscalculation meant ruin, there was frequent dissension among the merchants. Where both parties were Jews, often a Jew-

ish arbiter was called upon to decide the controversy. In cases of bankruptcy, the court usually went so far as to appoint one or two Jewish go-betweens and investigators (fact finders).

That the Newport town government gave to Jewish citizens the same standing as to non-Jews may be seen from the fact that Jacob Myers was elected a grand jurymen. The Jews also took a prominent part in civic affairs, such as enlargement of the jail, repair of streets, and arranging lotteries to gain funds for these purposes. Their names appeared with those of non-Jews on petitions to reduce taxes. It is fair to say that in the latter half of the eighteenth century, just before the English occupied Newport, the Jewish merchants exercised their greatest influence and constituted a really important element in the city life and business. Even so, their influence was never so great, nor was their position so firmly established as a community group as was the sway which Aaron Lopez and his father-in-law, Jacob Rodriguez Rivera, wielded as individuals in the second half of that century. Though the Harts, Pollocks, Isaacs, and Levys preceded them in Newport, Lopez and Rivera soon outstripped all Newport merchants — Jew or Gentile — to become the king-pins of its commerce.

The date of their arrival in Newport is uncertain. Lopez, applying for naturalization, declared that he had come to Newport in 1752 and had resided there ever since. Rivera may have arrived at an earlier date. In 1751 a snuff factory operated by Lopez, Rivera, and Cardozo is mentioned. Lopez and Rivera both played important roles in the development of the colonial basic industry — namely, whaling and the manufacture of sperm oil, which soon became vital to export trade.

The English government promptly recognized the importance of whaling, and encouraged its development at

home. But its efforts were hardly successful, and the companies organized at the end of the 17th century and at the beginning of the 18th were soon disbanded. Attempting further to revive whaling in 1732, the English government established a system of subsidies for owners of whaling vessels. Every ship of no less than 200 tons to be fitted out, was subsidized to the extent of 20 shillings per ton. In 1740 the subsidy was increased to 30 shillings, and in 1749 to 40 shillings. The Subsidy Act, with occasional minor alterations, remained in effect until 1789.

Bending all efforts to stimulate whaling at home, the English government played a game of duplicity with the Colonies. At times the Colonies would receive the same privileges as did the English whalers. Then these privileges would be curtailed by the Colonial governors, without the knowledge of the London officials. Thus, in 1755, the coast of Nova Scotia was closed to the Colonists, and the ban was not lifted until 1758. In 1761 the shores of the St. Lawrence were opened to the Colonists. But later so many restrictions were imposed that the merchants of Newport and Providence were forced to appeal to the General Assembly of Rhode Island for aid to secure justice. Despite these stumbling blocks, whaling and the manufacture of spermaceti developed rapidly into a principal industry of the time. On Nantucket Island it became the chief means of subsistence.

With the growth of the industry there was a natural increasing of competition between the candle manufacturers, who depended upon whale oil for their manufacture, and the merchants who wanted to export it in its crude state to England. The competition, therefore, was in the purchase of the catches, rather than in the selling market, where the demand was much in excess of the supply.

Jacob Rodriguez Rivera, Aaron Lopez, and a number

of other merchants in Newport, as well as a Mr. Cranch in Boston, sought to organize among themselves to eliminate competition, control whale oil prices, regulate commissions paid to purchasing agents, and direct the distribution of the oil supply. Catches were to be divided among the members of the combine according to quotas established at a general meeting.

In 1761 there was created the first "Spermaceti Candle Association". No sooner was the Association organized than disputes arose among the merchants of different cities who refused to abide by the terms agreed upon. They refused to observe stipulated prices and agents' fees. To beat their competitors, some of them allowed their agents to pay higher prices and their agents even split their fees with the fishermen, all to the end of procuring more oil, and obtaining it faster and in greater quantities than was according to agreement. The following letter, written on July 29, 1762, to Cranch & Co. of Boston by the three leading merchants of Newport — Rivera, Lopez, and Hart — is of interest, since it gives specific instances of these violations of the first agreement of the Association.

Newport July 29, 1762

Mrs. R CRANCH & Co.

Gentlemen,

We were not without hopes that the Rational & disinterested Measures you had plannd and proposd for the Reciprocal Advantage of the Sperma Can'l Manuf'as woud have had the desird effect; twas entierly with that view that we entered into the Contract; but the following incidents to our no Small Mortification, demonstrate, that we are disappointed, We have certain information, that most of the Factors at Nantuckett have procurd all the

Head Matt'r, they possibly coud, at an advanced price, it does not at present appear on whose acc't they have purchasd, but we have Reason to believe they have no other Metod to dispose of it, but to their former Emloyers; We need not acquaint you who they are, but this we will Venture to say, it is more than probable, it will be Rec'd at the high price they give, at the dissolution of our Article w'ch at fartest is at no great distance. Mr. Robinson & Co. have rec'd about 50 bbs. & Mess'rs Stelle & Co between 30 & 40, and as they have informd us, the Price is not ascertaind. We have frankly told them our Opinion, that this is a Manifest Breach of the Articles. Mr. Moses Lopez who we always supposd was to be equally concernd with Mr. Jenkins, we find, it left out of the Question & is going to Nantuckett, to purchase on his separate acc't without Limitation. The Philadelphians have not thot proper to Reply to our Letter on this Subject, But Mr. To's Richardson, who adressd them on Behalf of the Company writes to Mr. Robinson, they had Refusd to unite us, and we are well assured had given orders to them, Nantuckett Factors, to continue purchasing at the market price, but Quantity unknown. Besides the above Hints, you'll please to Excuse our once more objecting that M'rss Browns, being allow'd the liberty to give to the seller 2½ p'r cent more than the Restricted price, has given them the Opportunity of exceeding every Manufactor, who Acts upon Principle, from the Benefit of purchasing a Single cask diametrically repugnant both to the Letter and Spirit of the Articles which were intended for Mutual Benefit; and not to give one Manufacture the advantage of the rest.

These circumstances appear to us to have Vacated our Articles to all intents and purposes and upon the Least reflection, you will doubtless view them in the same Light; and as we have the Satisfaction to believe Gentlemen, that

you have conducted this whole affair, not only with Probity & honor, but with the strictest regard to the General Good, this with Reluctance we advice you for your Government, that we think the articles are absolutely void, and Ourselves at Liberty to purchase on the best terms we can

We can with trust assure you, that we have not yet procurd or given orders for a Single Barrel having without the least deviation adherd to the Contract, neither shall we receive a single Barrl this Season, if we suffer ourselves to be any longer Trifled with by a pretended contract, not mutually Bind'g

Notwithstanding if such Judicious measures can be corrected, as will put this affair upon Such Basis as to admit of no Violations, They shall have our Ready Concurrences, but we presume it cant be done, witout each Manufacturer has his proporation Assertained.

We are Gen's Y'r M't Ob'd S't

Collins & Rivera
Naph. Hart & Co.
Aaron Lopez

In spite of their protest the three Jewish merchants did not withdraw from the Association. While we know the outcome of this controversy, we can only speculate as to why they remained in the Association. Possibly the other members realized that they could not afford to antagonize these valuable members, or perhaps a means of curbing those who had violated the agreements was worked out. After this, Rivera set about reorganizing and strengthening the Association by inviting merchants of other cities and urging the latter to join, for apparently without their parti-

icipation, it would have been impossible to curb the furious competition among the candle makers, which threatened to ruin this important American industry. The competition was most keen in the late '60's and the early '70's, when many new spermaceti factories were opened. This increase in factories continued almost until the English occupied Newport.

It may be truthfully said that only because of Rivera's efforts did the organization survive through these trying times. New agreements were written annually. In the case of infringements, when a merchant violated his promises, or when a member failed to receive his oil allotment, Rivera was promptly turned to to enforce the agreement or to see that amends were made. Thus, the members, acknowledging his leadership and his wisdom and fair dealing, were ever ready to abide by his decisions. When an Association meeting happened to fall on a Friday or Saturday, it was postponed so as not to interfere with his observance of the Sabbath. His efforts in behalf of the organization were untiring. For example, when he learned that a merchant was doing business with Nicholas Brown he persuaded Brown to enroll his customer as a member. Despite the difficulties of travel Rivera undertook frequent journeys from one city to another to procure new members. In short, Jacob Rodriguez Rivera was the very backbone of the first organization of association in New England.

With all his ability, devotion, and integrity, Rivera could not have accomplished the results attained without the aid which he received from Aaron Lopez. While others, on a large or small scale, built ships and engaged in the trade, no one towered above his contemporaries in importance and influence in Colonial commerce or in Jewish community life to compare with Aaron Lopez. Lopez, who had begun ship-building just after settling in Newport,

controlled a fleet which made him a distinguished merchant prince. To England, France and Spain, in coastwise trade, to the West Indies, in and out of Newport, back and forth from port to port his vessels, great and small, sailed constantly on busy voyages. Bartering, trading, buying and selling, almost every commodity of the markets of the world passed through his warehouses. His factors, captains, and supercargos were a busy lot exploring all markets that his merchandise should be well handled, his ships have full cargos, so that their principal, the great Newport merchant Lopez, should reap the profits of his enterprise and daring venturesomeness. Endless was the correspondence of his counting house to that goal.

Through his wide and numerous connections Lopez generally had advance information of market conditions, price fluctuations, or of merchandise needed at a specified port. He was in touch at all times with distant Jewish communities, whether in the West Indies or abroad. He was a strong link between them and other Jewish communities in America. His name was known far and wide. When Jewish visitors came to these shores, whether some rich merchant or a rabbi from Palestine or Poland, they sought out Aaron Lopez. As host his hospitality was justly famous. Often the return voyage of the visitor was made possible by a free passage on one of his ships, or by his procurement of a place on another ship when none on his own fleet was available.

Lopez was open handed toward Jew and Gentile alike, and his fame as a philanthropist spread. Thus, when a certain Robert Mathews of Newport was jailed for non-payment of a four dollar debt, he addressed a letter to Lopez begging that he secure his release by paying the sum. One Joshua Mersereau, a stranger imprisoned in Worcester, wrote to ask Lopez for a loan of six or seven thousand

pounds so he could pay his debts and regain his freedom. Generally Lopez could be counted upon to respond. He was usually ready not only to procure the release of the prisoner, but to pay the debt and to find him work on one of his ships. In spite of only too often meeting with ingratitude when the released prisoner deserted at the first port, he never lost his willingness to lend a sympathetic ear to these cries of woe.

His friends knew that they could always turn to Aaron Lopez for comfort and aid. When Hyman Levy, burdened with debt, lost his business, Lopez wrote him words of solace, pointing out that the Almighty, knowing the frailty of man and of his existence, would surely send Levy strength and courage with which to build up another business. He also expressed joy that Levy made a settlement of his affairs to the satisfaction of his creditors. Then he appointed him as his New York agent and sent him a consignment of goods.

A member of the Hart family in Newport sailed for the West Indies, hoping, with the aid of Aaron Lopez, there to establish himself in business. For six weeks Hart tried vainly to establish contacts with the merchants in the Barbadoes. The non-Jews advised him that the times were not suited to new business ventures. Hart wrote to Lopez in one of his letters, on March 12, 1773:

“ . . . What adds more to my guise that I have not one advice with as there is no sincerity among those of our Society being Jealous of each other as to Mr. Jacob Poloc kept himself at a great distance the first moment of my arrival and also Mr. Mears the reason I am unacquainted with as neither asks favour or advice from either as yet . . . ”

The letter goes on to ask for Lopez's further help. And Lopez gave it. A side-light on the character of Lopez is

his sturdy faith in God and in destiny. His devotion to his family is indicated by expressions of joy at bringing here his brother from Portugal, as shown in letters to his friends, Abraham Abrahams in New York, and Isaac da Costa in Charleston, South Carolina.

To a marked degree Lopez possessed enterprise and boldness never deterred by obstacles or fear of risk. He was among the first of the shipbuilders to outfit ships for sale — chiefly to England. He sent his captains across the Atlantic in these vessels with instructions to sell the ship at first opportunity. This was part of a well reasoned logic, for not only did England offer a ready and advantageous market, but a sale meant the further advantage of avoiding the risk of a hazardous homeward voyage. Once a ship was sold, Lopez did not delay drawing on his considerable capital and unlimited credit to start building another.

It has already been pointed out that trade was carried on chiefly in credit, barter, and notes. Because of the uncertainty of ultimate payment, it is conceivable that a business man, even of the calibre of Lopez, at times lost courage and sought to close his shipping interests. Lopez, notwithstanding, steadily increased the number of his vessels. Thus, one may deduce that this disillusioned letter was written during a long illness that kept him in bed. It states in part:

" . . . All our families are at present well, tho' may say for myselph rather became an Invalid by having had few days ago a relapse of the same disorder that Afflicted me when I wrote you my last which confined me again to my Room, but through the Mercy of God am mending fast . . .

" . . . When bothe Vessels has compleated the Transaction of what logwood my Interests may procure them at the Bay, I Beseech your Attention to seek a

Market for my Brig't the Industry & If good Luck presents, I request you will by all means embrace it, as I am determind to reduce my Troublesome Navigation at all Events, being really tired of much Laborynth as it occasions me . . ."

(From a letter to his son-in-law Abraham Pereira Mendes, December 10, 1767)

Lopez was everywhere held to be the most honorable as well as the most venturesome of Colonial merchants. Here as an example of the high confidence which he enjoyed and of the esteem in which his word was held we refer to an occurrence when Nicholas Brown, the greatest merchant of Providence, notified Lopez of a shortage in a shipment of sugar. In reply Lopez made a brief and pointed denial. Stevens, the second in command on the ship, supported Lopez with the assertion that even were the shipment of gold rather than of sugar, there couldn't be more accurate weight. Brown admitted himself convinced without more proof.

Nicholas Brown had, among his numerous interests, several important iron foundries. Lopez, as well as other Jews from Newport, Philadelphia and New York did business with him, but none nearly to the same extent as Lopez. In fact, Lopez took the major portion of Brown's iron output. Since Lopez demanded the best in quality, it follows that Brown turned out the best grade of iron and achieved a high repute in England. There grew so solid a friendship between the two men that it led to frequent undertakings in partnership. At one time they were engaged in a joint venture in Surinam, involving the sending of a large cargo to their agent, Dr. Kinsman. When their ship reached port, it turned out that the agent had died. This misfortune

started such a chain of misadventures that there was a loss of the entire cargo. The two great merchants took it without a word or whimper.

In 1776 there was a great need of ships by the Committee of Correspondence in order to import goods and ammunition from abroad. Brown, as a member of the Committee, contracted for such ships with Lopez on behalf of the Committee. Later, when Brown University was founded and lumber was needed for its buildings, Nicholas Brown appealed to Lopez and Rivera, who together donated ten thousand feet, a very considerable gift. Both the two friends, Brown and Lopez, were first and foremost men of business and looked after the pennies. Thus, on an occasion when Lopez sent Brown a case of glass, he billed him for the packing charges. When Brown protested, Lopez wrote defending the charges:

"Observe, your Surprize at my having Charged the Boxes, which containd the Window Glass, you had of me. Wen goods, by the hhd, Hamper, or Box are Sold at a certain advance, it is a prevailing practice to charge the Packages they are in, as I may easily convince you, by Sundry Invoices I have of Goods bo't by myself in Times past at Boston & New York, If you have never been charged with Window Glass Boxes, must be Owing to your having bought them at so much Lawfull Money per Box, then you'll find by examining, they Cost accordingly, for you may easily see that if loose & Unpacked Goods are bought at a certain advance, certainly when you buy a whole Bale or Box at the very same advance, reason must Suggest, That a charge for the package is to be allowable."

Brown acknowledged the validity of the charge.

As part of his widespread activities in every phase of Colonial enterprise, Lopez was also engaged in the slave trade — as essential to the "three way trade". It appears, however, that he did so reluctantly. Once a ship left port it was no longer under his jurisdiction. The captain reigned supreme, as a partner, as owner's agent, as seller, and finally, as buyer in the foreign ports. Slave trading was legal and profitable and Colonial merchants of standing, such as the Derbys and the Saltonstalls of Massachusetts Bay, participated in it. The enormous profits tempted every captain trading on the African Coast to make the most of such opportunities to increase his share of the voyage. To Lopez this enforced business was only incidental, as may be deduced from the fact that among the hundreds of letters in the vaults of the Newport Historical Society, only a few mention slave transactions. Such references as do appear in the correspondence of Lopez are not in letters from him, but in letters to him from his agents and captains respecting their dealings.

In the years just preceding the Revolution, Lopez' chief interest was whale oil. In 1774, Colonial whaling activities reached their height, some 360 vessels being equipped annually. They varied in size, but totalled 33,000 tons. Directly employed in the whaling industry were some 4,700 persons — indirectly, the number was much larger. The early output of whale oil between 1771 and 1775 amounted to at least 45,000 barrels of spermaceti, 8,500 barrels of whale oil, and 75,000 pounds of whalebone.

Just before the outbreak of the Revolution, a strictly enforced law forced New England trade to be conducted through England. Whaling in Newfoundland waters was closed to the Colonists. Aaron Lopez was greatly affected by these measures. In order to further his whaling efforts, he was obliged to explore new waters where his ships could

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not be molested. Thus, his vessels navigated to the southernmost point of South America, to the Falkland Islands off Argentina. To develop this trade, he planned to outfit a large number of vessels in partnership with William Rotch. The plan was to make Egmonton in the Falklands their trading center, there to manufacture whale oil for English and other ports. The outbreak of the Revolution interrupted these plans. Their ships vanished — some were seized as contraband by the English, others were sunk, some lost by the perils of the sea. The following letter from Lopez' London agents describes conditions of his shipping interests at the time. Because it offers so complete a picture of the many aspects of Lopez' business activities we venture to quote it at length:

London 7th August 1776

Mr. Aaron Lopez

Sir

The foregoing Copy of my last I confirm, since which I have not addressed a Line to You, from the uncertainty I was under which part of the Continent You had removed to from Newport; I knew with certainty from Mr. Rotch & other Gentlemen arrived in London that You had left Newport but could not learn whither You had retired to — Yesterday I was made very happy by the rec't of Your favor of the 29th April accompanied with Copy of the 18th of the same Month, the original of which is not come to hand; I am now about to answer Your said Letters, together with those dated 8 September last from Yourself seperately & in Company with Mr. Rotch though I do not at present see any way in which I shall be able to forward this Letter with any probability of its reaching Your hands, but I shall keep it ready & embrace the first

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opportunity that offers, & herein I shall endeavour to give you a particular Account of what has occurred in Your service since the date of my last, as a beginning to which I shall enclose Your Account Current with the late Partnership of Hayley & Hopkins which was made up & balanced on the 31st December last by crediting You £7727.1.4 for your bill on me which You remitted that Company, which Sum together with the 3 former bills of £4,000 each, You'll place to my seperate credit; If any Error should be discovered in said Account it shall be rectified on Your pointing it out — In this Account You will observe You are credited £615 for the Insurance on the Leviathan which the Insurers agreed to pay on my giving them an obligation to account for any Salvage which at any time hereafter may be recovered, which terms I was glad to embrace The account of the settlement is as follows

The Sum Insured	£600.—.—
Brokerage paid ½ pc't . .	3.—.—
Commission 2 pc't . .	12.—.— 15.—.—
	<u>585.—.—</u>
To which add for a years Interest which they allowed	30.—.—
	<u>Nett to your Credit £615.—.—</u>

This was a very hard loss upon the Insurers, but there is no remedy, I am sorry You are still a large Sufferer by her Yourself, The Insurers have no thoughts of applying to the Courts of Lisbon about it, The difficulty & expence of such an application together with the uncertainty of success make them think it better to bear the present loss

All the bills Remitted by Mr. Hewes of Philadelphia for account of Mr. Rivera & Yourself are paid except that for £300 drawn by Willing & Morris on Herries & Co. which was protested & returned to Mr. Hewes by Packet in December last, but I have not had any answer from him, so am uncertain whether he has received it, perhaps You may have opportunity of writing to him to enquire after it — The 2/3.'s of the others are to Your credit, among which besides those already advised are 2 on A. L. Fernandez & Co. for £100 each

You are also credited £100 for a bill remitted me from Dominica by Mr. Isaac Werden who gives me expectation of a further Remittance for a small Sum as soon as he can procure a good biil — The bills you advise to have drawn on me in Yours of the 8th September, for £790 were regularly paid and are to your debit & the Nett Proceeds of the Goods consigned me by Buckley & Forrester are placed to your Credit being

1/2 of 275 cases of Oil per Forrester	£829.13.5
1/2 " 58 D'o Headmatter D'o	262.17.9
1/2 " 92 D'o " per Buckley		343.13.3
1/2 " Tar, Staves & Plank per Buckley		91.18.10

the Account Sales of all which you will find enclosed & also Account Sales of Staves per Tomlinson for account of her Owners, your half proceeds of which is £43.16.9 & Account Staves & Plank per Tomlinson for account of the Owners of the Juno, Your 3/4 of which is £26.12.4 both which sums are to your credit, as is also £90.4.10 for your half of the balance of the Nancy's Account Freight. — The matter of the Insurance of Francis was adjusted according to right & Your Account credited £13.18.1 for one half of the Sum over insured on her, No Insurance was made on the Flora as she was arrived before your order for that

purpose came to hand — The great expence of fitting out the Flora & the Francis prevented their leaving any balance from their freight to London, on the contrary they brought the concerned greatly in Debit as per the Account enclosed, by which you'll perceive the balance against the Flora was £265.14. — & against the Francis £149.5.2 which two Sums are placed to the debit of the Fishery Account by Mr. Rotch's directions — The conduct of fitting out these Shippes & indeed every Thing else which related to the Fishery was done under the immediate orders of Mr. Rotch, in the course of which so many difficulties arose that he could not possibly get clear of our Channel till the latter end of March which leaves great room to fear he could not get to Falkland Islands till much later than the welfare of the Voyage required which will I fear from that circumstance, meet some disadvantage

Soon after his arrival in London he found many reasons for wishing that Mr. Smith might not hold the part proposed in this concern & Mr. Smith himself seemed rather disposed to relinquish it; It would not be right to put these reasons upon paper — I shall therefore only wish you to understand that it was at length agreed Mr. Smith should hold no part in the concern, but Should be free from any, either advantage or disadvantage just as if the business has never been mentioned to him & on that footing the whole has been conducted — Before Mr. Rotch left London he drew upon me for £403.1.4 for Cash advanced by him for the Concern, which is placed to the debit of the Fishery; This heavy expence he desires to submit to your pleasure whether to be equally divided between You or wholly to go to his particular Account; This he means in case you should be able to determine it previous to any return of the Fishery being made, if not it is to be understood as wholly belonging to him, he having been obliged to act discretion-

ary in the matter without your immediate Knowledge or consent — The affair of the Clarissa is a very unhappy one; How Captain Wright will account for it I cannot guess; In one of my Letters to him I mentioned his having omitted to give me the necessary advice respecting that Vessel, to which he has given me no answer; indeed not a word has he ever wrote me about her, I should most certainly have insured her if I had Known which way she was intended to proceed: When Mr. Rotch arrived he informed me that she was gone for Georgia, but that was six Months after she was sailed from Jamaica & tis impossible to get Insurance made so long after a Vessel sails & as to making any Insurance on her now it is out of sight as the unahappy fate of her has been some Months known in London, Accounts having been received from Georgia of her being destroyed; I sincerely lament with You this unhappy Event — When the Nancy arrived in London I proposed immediately dispatching her back for Jamaica as mentioned to You in my former Letters, but when she was near ready Tomlinson refused to go in her & I was under a necessity of seeking a new Master for which of course detained her some time as it was proper he should be one who had some Interest in Jamaica to assist in procuring her a freight for London; I thought I had at last succeeded in a Captain Barker who had been many Years employed in that Trade & accordingly I had given the command to him, but just as she was completely ready for sailing Mr. Rotch arrived & stopped her from that Voyage, He settled with & discharged Captain Barker & determined her for Falkland Islands —

A heavy expense attended her outfitt as You will see by the Account enclosed, the Sum charged to the Fishery Account for her being £681.7.— He gave the command of her to Captain James Scott late Master of the Hayley in the Boston Trade & in her he himself took his passage for Falk-

land Islands — The Insurance made on her for Jamaica as formerly advised You was cancelled in the best manner I was able leaving only a charge of £2.2.— against the Owners, I chearfully relinquished the Commission I had charged on making it — The Insurance made instead thereof was £2200 for 8 months from 15 January, p'mo &c thereof being £143.10.6, The Invoices of Goods shipped on board her with £3700 Insurance made thereon for 8 months from 17 February amounts together to £3759.3.5 Insurances were also made for £1050 on the Flora & for £2250 on the Francis on Vessel & Cargo for 8 months from 6 February p'mo &c on the former being £68.15.6 & on the latter £146.15.6 & care will be taken if I do not hear from Mr. Rotch before the times for which these Insurances are made, expire, to have them prolonged, If I do hear from him which however is hardly to be expected I shall then follow such instructions as he may give — The Flora & the Francis both sailed from our Channel much about the time the Nancy did, I sincerely wish them success, but they all sailed much too late — I come now to give You all the information I can respecting Your Whaling Vessels, Five of them were taken & brought into Portsmouth, but upon immediate application to the Ministry, released, & three of them, the Falkland, the Enterprize & the Abigail sailed for the Fishery the beginning of January (London owned) with £600 Insurance on each, p'mo &c of each being £39.5.6 the Accounts of these & all the other Insurances before mentioned You will find enclosed

The Minerva another of those taken proved so very leaky that she was forced to be put upon the ways, & when there, was deemed incapable of repair, The Diana which was the other was almost beat to pieces by being run on some Rocks while in the possession of the Man of War's People & was in so bad condition therefrom as to be judged

incapable of being repaired without a much greater expence than she would be afterwards worth, Mr. Rotch therefore directed all the Stores to be taken from on board them & shipped in the other Vessels & the two Hulls to be sold which has been accordingly done & the produce principally applied towards defraying the expences of the other three Vessels at Portsmouth; I wish I could say these or any other of your Newport Fleet were Insured, They must all take their chance, Many have been already taken & though I have not heard of any of Yours, Yet I much fear for them, as I understand several of them when they left the Fishery meant to go for the West Indies, particularly the Jacob & the Cleopatra who proved too weak to keep the Sea & I am told some others pursued the same Track but I have not learnt the names of any but those two — It is with very great pain that I find myself furnished with nothing more agreeable respecting these adventures & can only hope that those who have not been heard of, will meet with such success as to much more than make good these misfortunate ones which have come to our knowledge — I am sorry I must add one more not very agreeable article of intelligence, but tis very well it was not worse: A few days ago the Abigail, one of the Vessels that went from Portsmouth arrived in our River from the Fishery where she stayed as long as she possibly could, but her bottom proved so very bad by the falling off of great part of her Sheathing that it was hardly possible to keep her above Water, Captain Fitch therefore determined to do his utmost to get her to London which with much difficulty was effected — The Oil she brought is landed & will produce about £500 for her Owners share, of which You shall have the Account Sales in due time — The Vessel proves extremely bad & must be made an end of here, which shall be accordingly done on the best terms I possibly can — I dont recollect anything further

respecting the Fishery which has come to my knowledge worth communicating — In Your Letter now before me You give the List of 11 bills which I had acknowledged the rec't of last Year from Captain Wright, the fate of which has proved as follows, the first 8 were paid & you are credited for Your proportion of each of them; the next being that on John Parkinson for £153.11.4 has been gone back protested some Months but I have heard nothing of it from Captain Wright; the next being that on Edward Minifie for £624.5.— is also protested & gone back, but it was due but lately & consequently will not get to Jamaica till after the present Years Crop is all disposed of; The other being that for £187.11.7 on John Roberts & Son of Liverpool was also protested & has been back to Jamaica, but the Drawer having left that Island for Bristol, Captain Wright sent back the bill to me & it is now at Bristol where the Drawer has been applied to & I think there is reason to hope the money will be recovered — I wish I could say any more bills are come to hand from Captain Wright, but to my great disappointment I have not received one; He promises me some & I hope by the Ships that sailed in July I shall receive something but I dare not depend much — By the John, Captain Peters he sent me 4 Casks of Indico, the nett proceeds of which he directs to be placed, $\frac{3}{4}$ to your credit & $\frac{1}{4}$ to the credit of Mr. Rotch, which shall be done accordingly, — He wrote to have Indico Insured but the order did not come to hand till after the Ship was arrived, the expence therefore was saved — Insurance from Jamaica to London is now 15 pc't — I have sold the Indico at $\frac{5}{4}$ p's & You shall have the Account Sales in my next, Your part of the Proceeds I judge may be near £300 & by the Insurance being saved will about Nett the Prime Cost — Captain Storey of the Venus is now here; the late Act of

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Parliament* made his Vessel liable to Seizure, she fortunately was at Lisbon but could not possibly venture to sail from thence, He would have been inevitably taken if he had attempted it; Mr. Mayne applied to me thereupon & upon my agreeing to indemnify him for your concern in the Vessel he undertook to order the Vessel to be sold, which has been done accordingly for £900, I hope You will approve of this measure — Storey tells me I may expect some remittance from Mess^{rs} Mayne's from Lisbon he thinks about £500 for your Account, It would be more but a loss has arisen by a bad debt at Barcelona with a House who purchased her Cargo of Corn; When I hear further of this Remittance You may depend upon being informed — The Anchor which Captain Tomlinson had on board was sold & he paid me for it £32.6.6 which is to Your Credit; I think the most that could be made of it, as it was subject to some disagreeable circumstances which doubtless you were aware of — Sometime last Summer Mr. Martin Luther sent me a parcel of Oil which produced about £800 — He drew upon me for £400 in part of it; the remaining £400 remains in my hands — I dont know who, but somebody has told me that he is largely indebted to you & that he ought to have directed the whole of the proceeds to be placed to your credit; that however cannot be done now as he has drawn for £400 either by getting him to draw a bill on me for that Sum or an order to place the balance of his Account to Your credit? Or cannot You give me directions

* In February, 1776, the English Parliament passed an Act prohibiting all trade with the colonies: "That all manner of trade and commerce is and shall be prohibited with the colonies and that all ships and vessels of or belonging to the inhabitants of the said colonies, together with their cargoes, apparel, and furniture and all other ships and vessels whatsoever, together with their cargoes, apparel and furniture, which shall be found trading in any part or place of the said colonies, or going to trade or coming from trading, in any such or place, shall become forfeited to his Majesty, as if same were the ships and effects of open enemies."

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to detain it for Your Account & inform him you have done so? I should be very glad to secure it for you by any means in my power — I sincerely join in your prayers for the restoration of Peace & Harmony & in every situation shall be happy in approving myself

I am very respectfully

Sir

Your Most Humble Ser^t

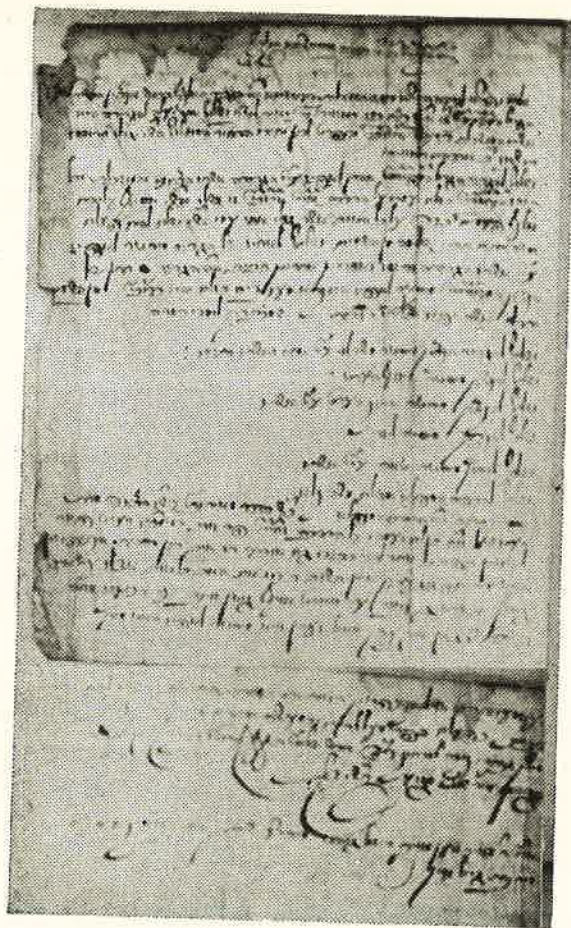
Geo & Hayley

[COPY]

Orig'l per All via Halifax

The Falkland Islands undertaking was thus such a failure that nothing remained to the partners from their investment.

With the outbreak of the Revolution, business in the Colonies was disrupted and drastic changes took place everywhere. The Colonies went on a war time footing. Naturally, the effect on Aaron Lopez's affairs was tremendous. On the capture of Newport by the English the Jewish merchants who had espoused the patriotic cause were forced to flee the city. Lopez, Rivera and Mendes, with their families, settled in Leicester, Massachusetts, where Lopez purchased land and sought to re-establish himself.



Fac-simile of a Hebrew-Yiddish letter to Aaron Lopez from a Jewish rabbi who came to Newport in 1773 and later left for Jamaica. The letter thanks Lopez and the Newport Jews for their hospitality and aid.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE ABOVE LETTER

בה היום ב דכנוכה דהאי שתא תקל"ד לפ"ק

שלמה נפשא לגברא מאנשתא דלית בא טימה ה"ה הגביר האלף הראש והקצין התייר הגדול המפורסם ח"ו אנ"ש כש"ת כמ"ר ראוויר' נרו יאיר לנצח ושלום אחד יעלה להגבירה היא אשתו המשכלת במעשי הטובים ובפרט לבן יחידו הבחור המושלים הש"י יגדלו וירממו וינשאו כ' אברהם ראוויר'.

ושלום להגביר הגדול המפורסם אהרן לאפיו עים הגבירה אשתו הצנועה והמשכלה וכל בניו הנחמדים יעמדו על הברכה וחיים ארוכים זו משלי והש"י יוסיף עליהם אלף פעמים ככה על כל הטוב אשר גמלו אתי עמי הש"י ישלם להם פעלם ומשכירתם תה"י שלמה מן השמים ושלום לאחיו של הגביר מיסטר לאפיו עים אשתו הגבירה ובניו ואחרון אחרון חביב ה"ה הגביר חתן של הקצין המפורסם מיסטר לאפיו הניקרא מענדים כולם יהי' ברוכים מן השמים ובכל אשר יפנו יצליחו בזכות שמכבדין לומדי תורה

ושלום להגביר הקצין מיסטר משה לוי עים אחיו ואשתו ובניו

ושלום להקצין מיסטר יוזף הערט

ושלום להקצין מיסטר אייזיק הערט עים אשתו

ושלום להקצין מיסטר ליוז

ושלום להחזן מיסטר טארה עים אשתו

ושלום להבחור המופלא ומושלם משה קלא

ואחרון חביב ה"ה התורני המופלא כ"ש כהר"ר מאיר נ"י עש"ב הצנועה

מרת רעטשיל וי"ח כולם יעמדו על הברכה וחיים פרזוכי דו מכ"ת ווערט פארלייאנין בפני כל אחד לפי כבודו גם אודיא דו איך בין בבית הקעפטין האט מיר אפניגעבן איין חשוב בעט און האב כל טוב אצלו ער איז גאנץ פערטיג נאר ער ווארט אויף גיטן ווינד ער דענקט מחר פארטצוגינהן איך קען וואיל זעהן ווי מיסטר לאפיו האט מיך רעקימענדירט אצל הקעפטין בטוח אני במדת הבורא שישלם להם שכרם כפעלם כפרי מעלליהם וכמעשה ידיהם בזה אתן קנציל למילין ואחו' סירה למרחוק כ"ד דורש שלומם הקטן טובי' בהרי"ל. נין ונרד להגאון מהרש"ל מגזע רש"י זצ"ל.

אהם ר' מאיר ווען אייך וואיל גיהט מיר צו שרייבן נאך זאמיקא וועט מיר נחת גדול זיין.

DOCUMENTS

I

We the Subscribers, Manufacturers of Spermacati in New England, being met together at Newport the Sixth day of May 1766, have agreed for ourselves & partners respectively, notwithstanding any alteration that may happen in our respective houses, within one Year after the date hereof, Honorably to adhere & abide by the following Articles Viz —

FIRST That we will, & do hereby, unite ourselves into one body, as well for the benefit of the Concern'd in the Whale Fishery, as for our Generally particular Interest, for the full Term of one Year, from & after the date hereof, that is Untill the Sixth day of May 1767 —

SECONDLY That, we will not either of us at any time within said Term by any Means directly or indirectly, by ourselves, or others for us, by presents promises, or otherwise, pay or Engage to pay, or give, for pure Spermacati Headmatter, more then One Hundred & Eighty Pounds Boston Old Tenor p Ton, provided the price of Common Merchantable Spermacati body Brown Oil, is at or any price under One Hundred & Forty Pounds Boston Old Tenor p Ton, But whenever Oil is or may be at any price Above

1) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

the One Hundred & Forty Pounds Boston Old Tenor p Ton, then the price of the Headmatter shall be One Hundred & Ninety Pounds Boston Old Tenor p Ton, & the price of S'Common body brown Oil shall at all Times be governd, by the Curr't price given by the Merchants at Boston for the London Market; But if there should be no Curr't price settled by the Merch'ts afores'd at the day the Headmatter is purchas'd, then the follow'g Curr't price by them given for such Oil, shall govern the price of Headmatter as aforesaid.

THIRDLY That each of us may employ any Person he pleases to purchase Headmatter for him, provided he does not Exceed the prices above mentioned & that their Commissions for purchasing be five p Cent & no more

FOURTHLY That all the Headmatter that may be purchased by us, or our factors for us, or Caught & brought in, by any of our Vessels, be divided among us, in the following proportions Namely:—

Nicholas Brown & Co.	20 Gall's, of Every	92 Gall's
Joseph Palmer & Co.	14 d'o	d'o
Thomas Robinson & Co.	13 d'o	d'o
Aaron Lopez	14 d'o	d'o
Rivera & Co.	11 d'o	d'o
John Mawdsley & Co.	11 d'o	d'o
Naph Hart & Co.	9 d'o	d'o

92 parts, and is to be Divided in proportion of the Spring, Summer, & Fall head Matter, provided the Person or Persons who may be short of his or their proportions pay within Ten days (after due notice being rec'd by such person who shall be short of their proportion,) The Cost & Charge of such Head matter, to-

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

gether with 6 pc't Interest from the Time it shall appear that the Head Matter has been paid for by him who has the Surplus, and also Five pc't on the Amount of the Head Matter, as an Equivalent for his Risk & Troubles

FIFTHLY That we will not either of us Manufacture, Either in the Whole or in part, any Spermaceti for any other person, but only for our selves respectively

SIXTHLY That we meet here again the second Tuesday in August next, or at any other Time that the Mejority of the Manufacturers may Judge proper, to Ascertain the Quantity Each of us may have rec'd, which is to be done on Oath or Solemn Affirmation of the Whole each of us may have rec'd in Gallons & when received

SEVENTHLY; That we give nor allow no Commissions, nor any other Charges Save only, the Customary Binding & Gauging, on any & all the Headmatter Brought to this Town, Boston, or Providence for Sale, within the Term of one Year from this Time;

In witness of our Free Consent, to all and Every of the foregoing Articles, in the most Simple, plain, & obvious Meaning, And Declaring upon our Honors, that we will not in the least deviate from Either of them, unless by joint Consent, we hereunto Subscribe our Names, Dated at Newport, the day & year first Above written

Nich'o Brown & Co.
 Tho Robinson & Co.
 Aaron Lopez
 John Mawdsley & Co.
 Naphthali & Isaac Hart
 Rivera & Co.

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

The Manufactory Subscribers to the foregoing Articles being Convened at Newport on the Sixth day of October 1766 and taking into their Consideration the ill success of the Whale fishers this present Season, Do Agree That instead of £190 the price to be given for the Head Matter p'r Ton as mentiond & Agreed upon in the Second Article of the Aforegoing Articles of Agreement, The price now to be given shall be Two hundred pounds Boston Old Ten'r p'r Ton and no more Subject to all other Regulations Mentioned in the said Article in Witness of our Consent & Agreement Honorably to abide by the present Agreement we Set Our Hands in Newport October 6. 1776

Nich'o Brown & Co.
for Aaron Lopez
Jacob Rod'z Rivera
John Mawdsley Co.
Napht & Isaac Hart
Rivera & Co.

II

Nantucket 18'th of 10th In't 1768

Esteem'd Friends
Jacob R Rivera
&
Aaron Lopez

I have now to acquaint you, that the New Spermacety works, have Caused the Same Confution, in the price of head Matter that Some have done heretofore, untill Confin'd by Mutual Contract of Reducing the Number of

II) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

purchasers, & then firmly fixing the price, for Some New purchasers here, for Jenkes & C'o have been, & still are so fond of gitting a Commission, that they dont stick at giving half their Commissions, & are thereby so frequently invading the former purchaser's territories, that occasion's us to Call a Council of the ancient purchasers, the result of Which was, that if Such practice Still Continued, it would be prejudicial to your Intrest by being cut short of a Large Quantity of Head Matter, which upon Equal Terms, would Center in our hands, therefore we thought it Expedient, to make the price publick, & have given £205. O. T. for all the fall head; I can assure you What we have done, has been with reluctance, & not for Self Interest, therefore hope it will meet your Approbation, please to write me upon it per very first Oppor'y; I have a Vessel now with ab't 400 bb. on board (the Sloop Delaware Noah Pease Mast'r) Shall put 100 Barr'l more on board, which will fill her up, as Soon as it Can be got ready, Shall then forward her to you, I am with regard

Your assured Friend

WR [William Rotch]

III

Newport Oct'r 20'th 1768

Mess'r Nich'o Brown & Co
Gent'n

I rec'd your Fav'r under the 20th Curr't & duly noted its Contents; In regard to the purchasess of Head Matter at Boston, you must be Sensible, it is what happens Every year; Those Manufacturies there, can (from their advan-

III) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

tagious Situation,) not only afford to give a higher price than we, (as they save Freights, Commissions & many other Charges which ours Come Loaded with) but are under Necessity of Encouraging, by that means, the Carrying Head to that Market, or their Chance must be Small, for this Reason I imagine, they have always refused uniting in our Articles; Those Manufactoryers there, have Never made a president, for the rest of the Sellers are Sensible, that they in reality get that & More from us; It is the Manufactoryes newly Set up that injure our union, at present, for they destitute of men of Influence, are obliged to make purchases of any body, & those, rather than loose their Commissions, will foregoe part of it to the Sellers; This Inconvenience could not be remedied, unless we had taken them in, at first; & that you Know was tho't by the united Comp'a when we meet to be unnecessary.

M'r Rome had sent his orders to Boston, & had promised me, not to Exceed the Limited price, but was answer'd by Mess'r Lloyd & Greenleaf, that they could not procure him any, without giving as much as others at Boston; This he Communicated to the Manufacturers here, & proposed to unite us in our Articles, provided we would Engage to make him up 500 Bb. of what part he might fall Short in his purchase; upon this we had a Meeting here, & found it would not only be a bad president, to Let any Manufactoryer, play off till all the rest had their Quantity in Store & engaged, & then Come & Sue for their Quota, But as we Considered you, as principal, We proposed M'r Rome, that we would give him a Letter to you, & State the affair, & Engage to Leave it to your Determination, and we here, would Engage to abide by it; but he would not Accept of that, nor give us time to Consult you, but insisted on our agreeing to his proposal & Engage *under writing* to Let him Come in for his proportion, & that if on Application to

you, you Should not Concur, it Should be Void; This we tho't Inconsistent, with our Articles, of not doing anything without the Consent of the Whole, & that it would be pinning you, to the Necessity of Conforming to the rest, when you might think otherwise, particularly when we know your opinion was to Let the New Manufacturers take their Chance this year; We therefore rather Chose to take our fate then forfeit our Integrity; after which we imagine he has given his orders accordingly. & I apprehend none of our united Comp'a would break through the Articles; But here is a Worse Tendency that the Loose Manufactoryers have now Caused, by making purchases of Such persons as rather Chose a half Loaf, then no bread, & give up half their Commission to the Seller, in order to get the Head Matter from our purchasers who upon Equal Terms, must have the preference, this you will see by the Inclosed Copy of a letter which we rece'd yesterday from our Friend Will'm Rotch, at Nantucket; By its Contents you'll find the Man that *all* our purchasers have got into; And as this is wide from our United Articles, it requires, that we Emediately take this into Consideration of the whole Comp'a, that we may know how Each is to Conduct himself, Least we Should run Wild & thereby injure one another; As no time ought to be Lost in this, we think one of your house to attend a Meeting here, is highly necessary, but Should that prove inconvenient to you, (which I hope will not be the Case) then we desir your imediate Answer & opinion, that we May know how to Conduct, before we Enter in it As this is a thing of Much Consiquence I think no time ought to be Lost, therefore in Expectation of Seeing one of your house here soon, Subscribe with much respect

Gent'n Your Most Hble Serv't

Jacob Rod'z Rivera

P. S. Whenever you write to me again I shall be glad you'll not address to Rivera & Co. for as that has Expired, it might make Some Confution — I am told Capt. Maudsley is at Nantucket & Expected Every day — M'r Robinson is Sick & have not been able to Communicate him M'r Rotch's Letter — I beg you'd not make use of Mr. Rotch's Letter to *anybody* but our united Manufacturers . . .

IV

Newport August 21st 1769

Mess'r Nich'o Brown & Co
& Dani'l Jenkes & Co

Gent'n

Your fav'r of the 17th Curr't we duly rece'd, & the contents communicated to all the Manufacturers here, & observe, the letter Mess'rs Browns rece'd from Col'o Child, & the price *he says* was offerd for his Headmatter; I. R. R. waited on M'r Pollock, & acquainted him, we had sufficient reason to believe, he had made the Col'o that offer for his Headmatter, as no other Manufacture was at liberty to give more than £200 Boston OT per Ton, & that if he Persisted in exceeding our limited price, it would require no Conjurer to foretell him, that we was determin'd to Die Like men; when on the Contrary, if he would unite us in the Price & Proportion, that we would be willing to Consider of his Demand, w'ch if not out of the way, probably, we might preserve the life of this branch of bussiness, w'ch we supposed it was on its dyeing bed; He assured me, he had not bou't the Warren Headmatter, nor offerd the Price

IV) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

you Mention, that he was willing to come into Measure with us, upon w'ch we had a Meeting, of the Manufacturers, took the Matter into Consideration, & we agreed to offer M'r Pollock Six part, w'ch should be added to the 112 we had in our Articles, & rather than Leave him at Liberty, to grant him Seven parts of 119, & I R R was desired to treat with M'r Pollock, on the Subject; he accordingly waited on him, & after using the necessary Arguments, Extended as far as the Seven parts, but find he will not Come into any other Terms, then either to ascertain him, Six hundred Barrels, or that he will take up with the least proportion, that any Manufacture has by our articles; I told him, I should lay his pretensions before the Manufacturers, & would let him know, our determination; The Manufacturers here, are of Opinion, rather than have him at Liberty, to grant him the same as Mess'rs Harts, but not to Insure him, any certain Quantity, upon w'ch we wait your Concurrence, & if agreeable to you Gent, will be Inserted & included in our Union; This will be delivered you, by our brother M'r Tho's Stelle, whose good Nature has been Prevaild on, to represent our Manufactures at Newport, at the Intended Congress at Boston; he has been assured, that whatever he & one from each of your houses does, for the Advantage of the whole, will be Confirmd by us; We refer you to him, for any further particulars, w'ch being what offers at Present have only to Subscribe (by the desire of all the Manufacturers here) with the usual respect

Gent'n

Your Most Hble Serv't

Jacob Rod'r Rivera

P S We have made the most diligent Inquiry, & cannot learn any Person have offerd more than the £200 p Ton

for the Warren Headmatter, therefore Conclude, its an Inventive of their own, to try, if they Can trap anybody, with their Scheme; let them Mention who the person that offerd it is, & then we will give Credit to it;

V

Newport Sept'r 6. 1769

Mess Nich'o Brown & Co

Gent'n

Your fav'r of the 28'th ult'o & 1'st Curr't, came in their Course to hand; the first Confirms us what Capt Stelle had informed us, respecting the York Manufacture; in Consequence of w'ch, as well as of the approbation of the rest of the Manufacturers here, I wrote to them Gent'n at York (a Copy of w'ch I here inclose you) hope it may meet the Approbation of your house & that of Mess Jenkes & Co, and that it may have the desired Effect; tho, cannot help thinking, its almost too late, for before we can git their Concurrence, & they can git their orders to Nantucket, Robert Barker will have done All he can, to Establish his price; however, we will use our Endeavours, & must abide by the fate; I have endeavourd to be as Explicit in my letter to them, as possible, that they may be the easier brought to Join us in future; as to Mess'r Polock & Co, I have used all the Arguments Necessary, & has not been possible to bring them, to take up with a less Quantity, than Nine parts of 121 Parts, & having Consulted the Manufacturers here, we all tho't proper, to take them in, In Consequence of which, a NB was added to all the articles, w'ch were

V) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

wrote, agreeable to the one now Inclose you, in which is Joind their Nine parts to the 112 to make up the 121 Parts; this Article is sent, for you & M'r Jenkes to Sign, & to return it as soon as possible, for as soon as it comes back, Capt'n Stelle proposes to take the whole of the Articles, go to the Dartm't Manufacture to get them to signed, as we have not yet had an opportunity to git them here, & when that is done, we Shall distribute them, to Each respective house; Capt'n Stelle had informd us, that your Opinion was, that the Yorkers deficiency should be made up to them, without the 8 Pc't Stipulated by our Articles; I had wrote the Copy w'ch I intended to write, without Mentioning it but when I layd it before the Manufacturers here, M'r Rome told us, he had acquainted them, of the 8 Pc't, & did not think, they ought to be on better footing than us, & as it might make a bad president for the future, I mentiond it, as its interlind in the Inclosed Copy — The Latter Coverd the Copy of the dutch protest, on the Surinam bill, and agreeable yo your request have perused the same, & find, that the Bill had been Presented for Acceptance, but that the Gent'n on whom it was drawn, refused Accepting it, for reasons they wrote to the Drawer, so imagin your friends have been rather in too great a hurry, in return'g the bill under protest before the time Expired, & then protestid for Non Payment; it gives me Pleasure, when its in my power to render you any service, youll find me Equally ready, whenever you favour me with your Commands, Interim I have the Pleasure to subscribe with great respect

Gent'n

Your Hble Serv't

Jacob Rod'z Rivera

P S I herewith inclose you,
the Copy of the bill protest &c

VI

Newport Sept'r 18th 1769

Mess'rs Nich'o Brown & Co,

Gent'n

At my return from Greenwich, I found your most esteemd favour of the 12th Curr't & observe Its your opinion, that the purchasers, owners, & Ketchers, have joint together, in order, if possible, to raise the price; how far the Owners & Ketchers, may combine, & what purchasers may join them, I wont Pretend to say, but this I will Venture to assert, that M'r Will'm Rotch, is a man of too much Integrity, to act so Low a part:— It plainly appears to me, that it must be for the bostonians, & nothing more likely, than its for M'r Loyd, for the Quantity he had orders to purchase to ship home; I am strenthend more in this Opinion, since a Letter w'ch I have just rece'd from M'r William Rotch, has come to hand, of w'ch the Inclosed is Copy, by w'ch you'll Observe, its his opinion, that if those that give above our Limits, Buy for boston, that as soon as they are supply'd, if none of our United Comp'a gives no more, we will have it at that, & w'ch Correspond with my Opinion given to M'r M Brown & Judge Jenks at Greenwich; As soon as I got home, I consulted all the Manufacturers here, on the Contents of your Letter, & that of M'r W'm Rotch, & the whole begs the favour of M'r Moses Brown, that when he goes to Nantucket, he would Stop here in his way, that we may have an opportunity to Consult on the Matter, before he goes; & if it should be found Necessary, that one from here Should accompany him,

VI) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

Capt'n Stelle is kind enough, to offer himself; but they are all firm & unanimously of Opinion with me, that we Ought not, on no Acco't whatsoever, nor will it be adviseable nor Consistent, to deviate from the price we have fixed, let the Consequences turn as they will, for reasons w'ch we shall Assign, when we are together, & if that Opinion, should be Confirmd by Your house, & that of M'r Jenkes & Co, we think there will be no Necessity, for Capt'n Stelles Going, as the Arrival of different Manufacturers, may rather turn to our disadvantage:—

As youll doubtless Consult M'r Jencke's House, before you go that he may know what directions to give to his Purchasers, I beg youll communicate to them, the Contents of this, & the Inclosed, that he may send his Orders to his Purchacers by M'r Brown accordingly; & we will do the same; But we would by all means advise, the adhereing religiously, to the price fixed, at w'ch I make no doubt, we shall be able to get the same proportion, as if we should deviate from it:— Mr. Isaac Howland has at length made his appearance here, & executed the Articles & I herewith inclose yours, & one for Mess'rs Jenkes & Co, to whom youll Please to deliver it:— this being what offers at Present, but again to desire, that M'r M Brown does not go without Carrying our orders, to the several purchacers, that it may appear a more unanimous Resolution of all the Manufacturers; for its time they should have them for their better Government, Interim, I have the Honor to Subscribe very respectfully . . .

Gentlemen

Your most Hble Serv't

Jacob Rod'z Rivera

VII

Newport Sept'r 26 1769

M'r William Rotch

Sir/

Your very kind favours of the 31'st Ult'o to me, & one of the same date, & another of the 6'th Curr't to M'r Aaron Lopez & Self came in their Course to hand; Should have Answerd to them Sooner, but as I was obliged to Consult the Manufacturers in Providence & here, w'ch Could not be Done Immediately; & then hearing M'r Brown was going to your place, tho't best to refer it till he went, as he could in great Measure Inform you by Word of Mouth, the Sense of our United Comp'a; I freely Commend your Conduct, in letting the Head you had Intrusted in your Hands, & intendid for us, go, as you was offerd more than we had Limited you; you acted as a man of your Integrity & honor, & was I not to get a Single Barrel, Should not have the least reason to find fault; It would have been a great guide to us, if you could have found out, for whom that Headmatter bou't at Such Extravagant a price, it was for, I cannot persuade myself, its for any of the Manufacturers in the Contract, & if it was, its very Necessary they should be Pointed out, & known, & for the Bostonians Manufacturers, had given us reason to Expect, they would not Exceed our bounds, if nobody else Set them the Example, & the New Yorkers have Come into our agreem't & Sent us the Inclosed orders, to their purchacer, w'ch Please to deliver in his own hand; The dulness and low price of Candles, (as I have already Wrote you) has made us keep the Closer to our agreement, as we are too Sensible, that to Exceed

that, the business will not be worth pursuing; & I think we Cannot give you a more Substantial proof of the truth of it, then by Still desiring you, to keep to the price we have limited, namely £200 Old Tenor p Ton, Even if we dont git a Single barrel; & all the rest of the Manufacturers in the Contract are of the same Opinion, & will give their orders accordingly; for if we are to get Nothing that will be adequate to the Capital w'ch is Necessary to be Employ'd in the bussiness, we better Employ it in some other branch; if the thing would afford it, we would be Willing, the Ketchers & Sellers, Should Share with us, but the profits must be Mutual, or it will labour hard with the Manufacturers; the Bostonians can be, nor ought not to be, any Example for us, as their Situation, gives them many advantages that we here, cannot Enjoy; no Doubt they will at that rate, soon be Supplyd with the Quantity they Want, & then if no one of the Manufacturers appears to give more, the price we have fixd will be Establishd, & then doubtless youll have it in your power, to procure us as good a share, as our Neighbours; if you do, you may Send it as soon Convenient, & we Shall Endeavour to make you suitable Pay for the same:— We duly take Notice of the Article you Recommend, to be Inserted in our Articles, to avoid the pernicious practice, of some of the purchacers giving way, part of there Commission, w'ch we are Sensible, is, as prejudicial to the Bussiness in General, as if they advanced the price, it has always been my opinion, & I shall take due Care, that particular Notice be taken of that Article, in framing our Articles for next Season, as its now too late, to do any thing for this Season; I am with great esteem & respect

Sir

Your Fr'd & Hble Serv
JRR

P. S. M'r Lopez desires I would Present his best respects to you, & to acquaint you, that he Confirms on his part, the foregoing, as the Sudden departure of the bearer, does not allow him time to write himself,

(Copy of J. R. Rivera's Letter to Mr. Wm. Rotch p Mr. Brown)

VIII

Newport May 10. 1770

Mess'rs Nich'o Brown & C'o

Gent'n

I duly receivd your favour of the 25'th ult'o & have Attentively consider'd of the Contents, & as I find by yours, you do not resolve the Queries I descried, by that which I wrote Mess'rs Jenkes & C'o on the subject, I have thought proper to trouble you with a Copy of the same, least that by your not having it pres't you did not remember the Contents; & I don't know, I could now add any thing of weight, to Convince you of the reasonableness of my objections, against the Charges of your bill, particularly, as you are pleased to Observe, that upon the whole, *you* think yourselves Judges, in respect to the Article of Charge: & you had put down Such only, as you thought reasonable:— If you are the only Judges, then nothing more can be said, but I should imagine, that either, the rest of the Manufacturers, or any Impartial person, were the most Competent Judges; — Its not the Value of the matter in Dispute, that I regard, but the Equity of the Charge, therefore, if I

Encroach a Moment longer, on your time & patience, I hope youll Pardon me:— Pray tell me, if the 8pc't was given up, no matter for what reason, (tho to that, I could also say something) & the 8 pc't was to have been in Lieu of Interest Insurance &c &c with what propriety, can those very Same Charges, be now added to the bill: The reason why I did not make my objections to you in writing, at the receipt of the Headmatter, was, because we daily Expected a Meeting at Newport, the Whole Members, & then, I thought it could there be best argued. & the Sense of the Manufacturers taken upon it; but that, I was not Allow'd; You are pleased to observe, that M'r Rome after first Arguing fully, on the first, receiv'd the Second parcel, & for what you know, with Satisfaction; — You will Allow me the liberty Gent'n to Say, that M'r Rome on receiving both the first & Second parcel, complain'd Heavily of those Extra Charges, & for the same reasons as I did, Chose to have it adjusted in the Meeting,

On the receipt of yours, I acquainted M'r Rome with Contents, & his Answer you have here inclosed:— However, I will not dwell any longer on the Subject, & must therefore Leave it to you, to do as you please, tho I shall always be of opinion, (Unless we had the Sentiments of the Manufacturers to the Contrary, to w'ch I will Always pay the greatest deference) that after the 8pc't was given up, no other charge Ought to be added to the prime Cost then Binding, Comm'n & all other charges at Nantucket, & freight from there: & no more; In this way, M'r Robinson deliverd M'r Rome & me, what he was Overstocked, & M'r Polock did the same,

As Mess'rs Jenkes formed their Charge, by yours, I dont doubt but if you take their Sentiments on the Subject, youll both do what may Appear to be right of both Sides; more I do not Claim nor Ask for — I also receiv'd your fav'r

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

of the 7th May, with the Bolt Duck return'd, which is indorsed on the Bill I now return, Interim, I have the pleasure of assuring you, that I very respectfully am

Gent'n

Your most Hble Serv't

Jacob Rod'z Rivera

P S I join with you, in opinion, that if any thing can be hit upon, to keep this branch from runing wild, that it will be means of preserving this branch, w'ch otherways must receive a death wound, the rest of the Gent'n here are Of the Same opinion

J R R

IX

Newport April 2^d 1773

Mess. Nich'o Brown & Co.

Gent'n

At a meeting of the Manufactores at Newport, held the last Evening, I was desired to Inform you, that we had taken into Consideration, the Necessity of uniting the Whole body of Manufactores into a Union, the Ensuing year, & found that it will only be, wasting too much time, to no purpose, Endeavouring to bring them to a Conclusion, by way of Letter; Therefore Concluded, that it was the most Effectual & Expadicious way to apoint a Meeting here, of all the Manufactores Concerned in Manufacturing Spermaceti, & then to Consert & Conclude on the most

IX) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

Effectual plan, to Answer the desier'd Effect; for without a union, we Need not be at a loss to know, what will be the Consuquence of a Disolution of the Articles; And we leave to you & the Boston Gent'n to apoint the time;

Should you judge it Necessary to Invite the New York & Nantucket Manufactoris, you will govern yourselves in the Apointment of the day, so as to give Sufficient time, to write to them & receive their Answer; The New Manufactore, which was said to be Setting up at Newyork, is Certainly going forward; at my Return from Providence I found a letter from Mess. Sampson & Sol'n Simson (the persons Concern'd in the same) of which the foll'g is an Extract & When M'r Moses Isaacks was here, M'r Manuel Myers, Solo'n Myers Cohen & ourselves agreed with him, to Carry on a Spermaceti Manufactory, which we came into, with Views of profiting ourselves, & Serving my Brother in law M'r Isaacks, & you may be Sure Good Sir, we Shale Endeavour to Act in Such a Manner as not to be an Enjury to our Worthy Friend M'r Rivera, or any of the Manufactories & therefore desierous of your good advice in what a Manner to proceed, Wherein we make no doubt M'r Jarvis & Co. will readily join us; By this you'le observe, they may be brought to unite us, in some shape or other; I shale defer giving them an Answer till I have yours; I am also desier'd by the Meeting to Acquaint the Boston Gent'n with the Contents of this, which I do by transmitting them a Copy of this, With whom you may Confer on the apointm't of the time and pl I am with great Respect

Gent'm

Your Most Hble Srvt

Jacob Rod'z Rivera

To be Communicated to the
Gen'n Manufactorers at Providence,

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

X

New York June 7th, 1774

Dear Sir

We received esteemed favour of 31th May, to late to Answer by the return of the Post, we have perused the copy of the Articles Signed by the Manufacturers, and as you pleased to say our Concurrance is only wanting to put them in force, we have signed them, but previous to it, made a small addition, The reason of our doing it, is so plain and Just That we presume it cant be liable to the least objection, for by the same right that any Person might order purchases to be made here, we may order them to be made at Newport or Providence, and in Consiquence the purchasers, who ever they may be, would not only interfer, but would be the freight and commission out of Pocket, and as we not by ourselves or any other person, purchase any Head Matter at Boston, Rhode Island or Providence, the Manufactores at either Places must not by themselves or any other person purchase any Head Matter in this Governm't and we will be ready at any time to give an exact Acc't of all such Head Matter we may purchase, and do Agree to deliver whatever each of us may git more then Our quota, to yourself or any other Person who may be deficient, upon our being paid agreeable to the said Articles, and the Manufactores to make good to each of us the Quantity we may fall Short Agreeable to the said Articles. But we cant help thinking the time fixed of Ten days, a Little too short for People at a Distance, but as the Gentelmen to act upon Honor, we presume no advantage will be taken of each other, and altho we aquiesed in the Quantity allowed in this year, at the same time we beg Leave to mention that we expect a larger one the next.

X) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

We are greatly Obliged to you Good Sir for the trouble you have taken for us, and agree with you in Sentiment That we had better work a Small quantity to advantage, then a large one to no Profit. As you have in the List of Purchasers, mentioned our Correspondents at Nantucket, we Shall not want to add more to them, and if any thing new should occur, we shall expect immediate notice, We beg Leave to add as we mean to act the fair and honest part we shall always be ready to give yourself, or any other proper Person, any further Satisfaction respecting what we purchase, being with due Regard

Dear
Your Most Obed't Serv't
is Signed — Isaac Stoutenburgh & Co.
Solomon Simson & Co.

Mr. Jacob Rod's Rivera

XI

Newport, Sep't 6. 1767

Ab'm Abrahams
per Post

Sir

I have the singular pleasure of addressing you on the joyfull Occasion that presents me the arrival of a Brother of mine from Portugal with his Wife & three Sons; Their Errand being founded on the Grand Object of Glorifying the protector of Israel, are inspired with a Spark of Our Old Father's Zeal & ready to obey the Divine precept.

Therefore earnestly entreat your Devotion to Lead you

XI) Newport Historical Society Vaults

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to be the meretorious Instrument of their Obtaining the Covenant which happily Characterize us a peculiar Flock: I would have joined them before now, in anticipating this request, but the poor state of health my Brother has been in, made me think it prudent to wait his Recovery.

Should it suit Your conveniency to improve the first opportunity, after this reaches Y'r hands, it will particularly oblige one that sincerely professes to be

Sir

Your most Hble Ser't
[Aaron Lopez]

XII

Newport, Sept. 17. 1767

Isaac Da Costa

Sir

I am indebted to your kind fav'r of the 24th May per my brother David which I should have acknowledged before now but the Task of Business, often steals me the pleasure of waiting on my good and Worthy Friends.

The deep Concern you are pleased to express on the exit of my beloved Brother, is a natural Consequence of the mutual regard, that subsisted between two sincere Friends, upon whose Eternal separation y'r tender sentiments are so dolefully delivered. The particular esteem he professed for you, justly entitle him to your posthumous & cordial Declamations.

The Truly obliging Wishes your benevolence is pleased to pronounce for my Welfare are fresh proofs of the be-

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nignity of y'r Mind. May the Mighty Hand retribute so generous Heart with multiplicity of Worldly Blessings & terminate all your undertakings perfectly happy.

The same Powerful Being that deprived me of a good brother, has delivered from the reach of Barbarous Inquisition a younger Brother of mine than the Deceased, with his Wife & three sons; They arrived here the 11th July Last from Lisbon in a ship I ordered there for the better conveniency of their transportation: This piece of news I take the liberty to impart you, persuaded it will merit your applause, both as a Judeo & a friend.

Observe your Late rezolution of declining to accept any consignments from Abroad on Acc't of the badness of times, & that you cannot (as you could wish) render your Friends to agreeable sales and quick returns. The disinterested principles that govern your equitable conduct, justly excuses you with me from the imputation of your rejecting my address by reason of any dislike, but rather for the essential obstacles you are pleased to point out, which whenever removed and you find any better prospect I shall not fail reviving our commercial correspondence, meanwhile shall I flatter myself be continued and cherished by a friendly intercourse.

Mrs. Lopez best respects joins mine to Mrs. DaCosta, your good self & rest of the Family being with unfeigned esteem & deference.

Sir

Your most obedient and Humble Servant

[Aaron Lopez]

Pray you to fav'r me with forwarding the Inclosed to our mutual friend.

XIII

New York, Nov. 20th. 1767

Mr. Aaron Lopez

Sir

I arr'd safe here last fryday week after a very fatiguing passage having been at Fishers Island several days & at last came home by land from Huntington which was attended with no small expence however hopes all is for the better, I long to hear of your brother & family beg it by the earliest opp'ty.

Here with send you double sett Tephilims for them being a present from Mr. Isaac Adolphus, he has no Tephilims to spare or would send some, Also four setts for M'rs Lopes her sons with my compliments to her. I found my family all in health who join their best wishes to you & your wife

Your Most Hum'el Ser't
Abr'm I. Abrahams

XIV

Newport Dec. 4th 1767

Mr. Ab'm I. Abrahams

Your esteemed fav'r of the 28th ult. released us from the Anxiety we felt on the Event of your fatiguing passage & are exceeding glad you was at last restored in safety to your dear friends, whom have the pleasure to Learn you found in health.

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XIV) Newport Historical Society Vaults

I delivered your kind message with the Tephilims to my brother Ab'm, who with his wife and children thanks you for your Friendly enquire after them and Likewise to Mr. Adolphus for his Religious present, also dito my sister in law the Tephilims for the Boys, with your kind compliments.

Please to receive in return an Ample & round Salutation from the Whole Family, who thanks to the Almighty is well. My brother & his family did not return from Tivertown till last Monday, they are all breavily and full of Devotion, God may increase it in them and in all our Brethren that we may cordially join to praise his mercifull regard for us that I am with particular esteem

Sir

Your Most Hum'le Serv't
Aaron Lopez

XV

Newport Goal, August 19. 1771

To Aaron Lopez
Honoured Sir

May the Petition of a Poor Stranger find Some Effects Upon your Genourous Heart Sir I take the Liberty To Write to you as I hear you Was a Gentleman of a Kind Mind and I hope Sir heavens will Prosper you Sir I was Put in here this Afternoon for A Debt of 4 Dollars which Sir if you will Release me I will Go to Sea or work in your Employ other ways I am a young man in the Prime of Life and a Strong

Honoured Sir
I Remain your most obedient and Humble Servant
Robert Mathews

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XVI

Charles Town 3 Sep't 1773

Mr. Aaron Lopez

Sir

Your much Esteem'd favour came safe to hand, with the assurance of your kind wishes towards my papa and Mama & family, which you have our greatfull acknowledgment in Return for them if my papa was present he would with a great deal of pleasure answer his worthy friends Esteem'd favour, but as he is deprived of that Satisfaction as is gone to Philadelphia for the benefit of his health, for he has been very much indisposed this summer, my papa had thoughts of paying your place also a visit if he found himself better which I hope kind providence will grant him I hope my friend will Excuse the Liberty I have taken in addressing him with this scroll, but as papa being absent was the Reason of my being so bold — my Mama Joins with me in Congratulating you & my Dear Mrs. Lopez on her save Delivery, it also renders us happy to think she is so brave with all your dear branches, a continuance of that Blessing we Sincerely wish you all [] good sir you will please to Make Mama & self Respects acceptable to Mrs. Lopez & Mr. Mendez & Miss Ester & the Rest of the family you will pleas to accept the same from one that Subscribes herself

Your obliged Humble Serv't

Esther Hart

XVII

Providence February 24th 1769

Mr. Lopez

Yours of the 23rd Ins't is before us, Our Furnace is now out of Blast So that we cant Supply the last Iron, We Expect to Blow in April or fore part of May wen can do any thing of the Kind you want. Our paper Mill is Quite out of paper The Severity of the Weather the forepart of this month prevented their making. We are Oblig'd to send to Boston for a Dozen Reams till they get agoing.

We are well Supply'd at Present with Wine So that it Dont Suit us to Barter

We are Sir

Your Humb'l Servants

Nich'o Brown & Co.

Mr. Field has the wine onboard.

XVIII

Providence May 20th 1769

Mr. Lopez

Sir

Yours of the 17 Ins't we have before us and note the Contents, We are sorry it is not with greater Certainty we Expect to get the Piggs to you by the time you mention but Jn'o B & MB is just Returnd from the Furnace where they have been Engaging the Carters to Carry you 30 Ton

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of Piggs to the fulling Mill as the Difficulty of the Season — Want of Hay & Grass — prevents our getting the Piggs Carted to Town timely, and have Succeeded so far that we think you may Depend the Thirty Tons will be there by Thursday next and we have Engaged Mr. Jn'o Fry to take them in his Boat and as soon as a Load which will be about 15 Tons gets there he will proceed to you and afryday the Second Load to Compleat the whole, but fearing a Disappointment we Shall send you from here what we have being about 10 Tons which would have been with you before now having been on board the Boat but Some apprehensions the Boats being in Danger of the Man of Wars Tender has been unloaded and now waite for T. Lyndsey to take them in, they will be with you on Monday or Tuesday next. So that if they all arrive we will take the Balance in Goods, or if you do not want them must ask the Loan of your Wharf untill we otherways Dispose of them . . .

We are Sir
Your Humbel Servants —
Nich'o Brown & Co.

XIX

Providence Mar. 15. 1770.

Sir.

The Pine Board w'ch you & Mr. Rivera so Generously Subscribed for Building the College being now wanted, As our N B, Inform'd you, twould be rec'd by all the concerned as a very Kind & Aditonal favour if you Could Spair the Whole 10 Thous'd as Subscribed by yourself &

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JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Rivera, As twi'll greitly forward the Building, for the Bords that will be brought to Market this Summer will not be Seasoned in Time, Your Compliyance will greitly Serve the Publik as well as your mos Esteem'd friend

& Hbe Serv't
Nico. Brown & Co

PS plese to deliver the Bords to the Barrer Mr.
Martin Simmons

XX

Providence March 27. 1770

Mr. Lopez S'r

Yours of the 22'd Ins't is before us we are much Obliged to you & Mr. Rivera for your Answering our Request in the Bords for the College tho our carpenters tells us they are not Seazond . . .

Nich's Brown

XXI

Providence June 8. 1770

Mr. Aaron Lopez

Sir

Your of the 5th Ins't is to hand We have Wrote Mr. Caleb Greene at the fulling Mill (Near Greenwich) were the Pigs are, to cary them to you Emmediately which hope will be provided in time, If he should be now Down, may apply to him, or send him a line if Oppertunity to prevent Delay if our Letter should miscarry

Your Humb'l Serv't
Nich'o Brown

XX) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

XXI) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

XXII

Newport October 18th 1770

Mess'rs Nicholas Brown & Co

Gent'n

I can't but notice with some Surprise the manner of Expressing in your favour of the 16th Ins't wherein you say that "expected the Jamaica Rum for the Pigg Iron would have been sent you ere now" If you had but recourse to the Contents of my Respects under the 11th ult'o of which you take no notice, Neither to that under the 27th d'o you would have seen that I only attended your Orders, whom to deliver the Rum & desired You would direct some person for to receive it as I was determined to give you satisfaction in its Quality & willing to clear myself from any blame in case any adulteration took place before it reached Your hands, which was the Sole motive of my detaining it till you pointed out a Boatman of your liking — And altho' you now instruct me to deliver it to Lindsey I have (as he says is no judge) requested Your good Neighbour Mr. William Russell to give himself the trouble of looking into it in Your behalves — I have no flour by me at present, else would have accepted Your proposal — I find you mistook the price of the Rum which was agreed at 86/8 instead of £4.5 as you now mention by looking into your Letter of the 5th Sept'r will discover your Error — Inclosed You have a Bill for their particular gague which Amounting to £[] Lawfull M'y have debited your acco't therewith which please to notice the same in Conformity

I am Gent'n Your most hble Serv't

Aaron Lopez

XXIII

Providence Ap'l 23d. 1776

In Consequence of a Contract between the Secret Committe of the Continental Congress on One part, and Mess'r Nicholas and John Brown on the other part, Nominating me to appoint three persons to Value any Vessels they the said Nich'o and John may Employ in the Continental Servis, I do now Name and apoint Ambrose Page Esq. Cap't W'm Wall & Cap't Nich'o Power to Examin the Schooner the said Browns are about to Hire of M'r Aaron Lopez of between 130 & 140 Tons and to Report according to their best Judgment the True Value of said Schooner allowing her to be Compleatly fitted for a Voyage to Europe. —

Rich'd Cooke

XXIV

Providence Ap'l 23'd 1776 —

The Schooner Sally — being Valued by three Indifferent Men at Eight Hundred and Seventy five pounds Lm'y when Compleatly fitted for a Voyage to Europe, I do In Consequence theirotf agree to Let to Nich'o and John Brown who in this matter Acts for the Continental Congress, the Said Schooner at the Rate of Six Shillings Lm. per month for Each Ton She may measure which is to be Assertained when hove out, the Resque of the Seas is to be borne by me and all other Resques by the United Colonies, in whoes behalf the Said Browns Acts and are to be Accountable

Accordingly for the Sum of Eight hundred and Seventy five pounds Lm'y in Case of Loss of said Schooner in any other way then the Danger of the Seas as Afforsaid, the Hire of the Schooner is to begin as Soone as She may be Graved and Deliverd up to said Browns Ready for Loading, I am to Keep the Said Schooner in good Repair During the Voyage, and the Hire to Continue till She is Delivered to me in this Colony or in Swansey River, the Charter Party to be executed next Week or as Soone as Convenient

XXV

THIS CHARTER PARTY of Hire or Affreightment indented and made this Sixth Day of May, Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six, between Aaron Lopez of Portsmouth in the Colony of Rhode Island Merchant, in behalf of himself and M'r Francis Rotch Merchant of Bedford (owners of the Schooner Sally now in the Port of Providence) on the One part, and Nicholas Brown and John Brown of said Providence Merchants, who in this matter Act for, and in behalf of the Hon'ble Continental Congress (in Pursuance of a Certain Agreement or Contract entered into between the Committe of Secrecy and said Nich'o Brown and John Brown) on the other part, Witnesseth, that the said Lopez and Rotch Owners of said Schooner, Burthen One hundred and Twelve and three quarter Tons, Do by these Presents let unto or freight the said Schooner and her Appurtenances unto the said Browns for the Use of the United Colonies for a Voyage to be made in her from Providence to Europe, and from thence back to Providence again, And the said Lopez and Rotch, doth hereby Covenant with

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the said Browns that the said Schooner is strong and staunch and well fitted for the Voyage aforesaid and is to be kep't at the Expence of said Lopez and Rotch in Good Order during said voyage. IN CONSIDERATION whereof the said Nich'o Brown and John Brown the freighters in behalf of the United Colonies do hereby Covenant and agree to pay unto the said Lopez and Rotch the sum of Six Shillings and Eight pence Lawful money per Ton, or Thirty Seven pounds Eleven Shillings and Eight pence L'money for Each and Every month the said Schooner Shall Continue in the said Service aforesaid, and in that Propotion for a less time than a month to Commence from the Date hereof. The said Hire to Continue untill her Return and Discharge at Providence aforesaid or any other harbor with the Narragansett Bay, Secunnit Point, or Bedford, and to be paid within Thirty days after the time of her Discharge, and the said Nich'o Brown and John Brown in behalf of the United Colonies, Do further agree to pay all Port Charges of Victualling and Maning the said Vessel for the Voyage aforesaid, and all other Charges, saving the Necessary Charges for keeping the Vessel in good repair as aforesaid. But in case said Schooner Should by any misfortune be lost either at Seas or in Port by any kind of Seizure, — British or other or in any manner whatsoever, saving and Except the Danger of the seas, which is to be resqued by the said Lopez and Rotch that the said Nich'o Brown and John Brown (who Act for the united Colonies) — shall and are to pay unto Said Lopez and Rotch in Case of Loss as aforesaid, The Sum of Eight Hundred and Seventy five pounds Lawful Money / She being Estimated at that Value by Persons appointed by His Honor Governor Cooke / on Demand with Interest from this time Untill paid, and no hire money. To the True, and faithful performance of Each and Every of the said Articles, Covenant, and Agreements,

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the Said Parties bind themselves, their heirs, Executors, and Administrators Each to the Other. IN WITNESS whereof the PARTIES have hereunto interchangeably Set their hands and Seals, the Day and Year aforementioned.

Signed, Sealed in the
Presence of Us.
W'm Tillinghast

Aaron Lopez [SEAL]
Nich. Brown [SEAL]
John Brown [SEAL]

XXVI

Memo'dm of agreement between Mr. Aaron Lopez & Nicholas Brown, that said Lopez agrees to Charter one Quarter part of the Brigg George on her Interested Voyage to Surinam at the rate of Six Shillings per ton & Suppose to measure One & Hundred & Twenty Seven Ton, but to be more Accurately Measured as Requi'd by Eighth party & the said Lopez is to have one Quarter part of all the Cargo as Estimated & what Charges arose on the Brigg since Mr. Clark & Nightingle brother of Jos. Brown to be added to the One Thousand Dollars is to be her Value — The pay for the Cargo To be in Two Months or Interst after, if the Vessel be Taken or lost the Interst on the same from that Charter till paid. Providence June 11, 1776 — Note the Hire to begin the first day of this Month

Aaron Lopez

XXVI) John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

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XXVII

We the Subscribers being Chosen of Town Meeting of the Town of Newport June 4 — 1742 to Tax the following person for the year 1742 :

John Granston	£ 10
Sem. Eng.	10
Alex. Hamilton	25
Abraham Hart	7
Isaachar Polock	8
Jacob Judah	6
Abraham Isaacs	9

XVIII

FROM THE NEWPORT TAX LIST FOR THE YEAR 1775

Hart Isaac & Comp.	£ 2. 6.1
Hart Jacob	4.8
Hart Samuel & Moses	2. 6.1
Hayes M. Moses	1.16.10
Isaacs Jacob	13.10
Jacob Joseph	1.14.6
Levy Moses	6.18.3
Levy Benjamin	2.4
Levi Haim & Siexas	4.12.2
Levy Simeon	2.4
Lopez Aaron	32. 9.10
Lopez David	13.10
Lopez Abraham	2.4
Lopez David Jun	2.4
Polock Myer	1.16.10

XXVII) Rhode Island State Archives
XXVIII) Newport Historical Society Vaults

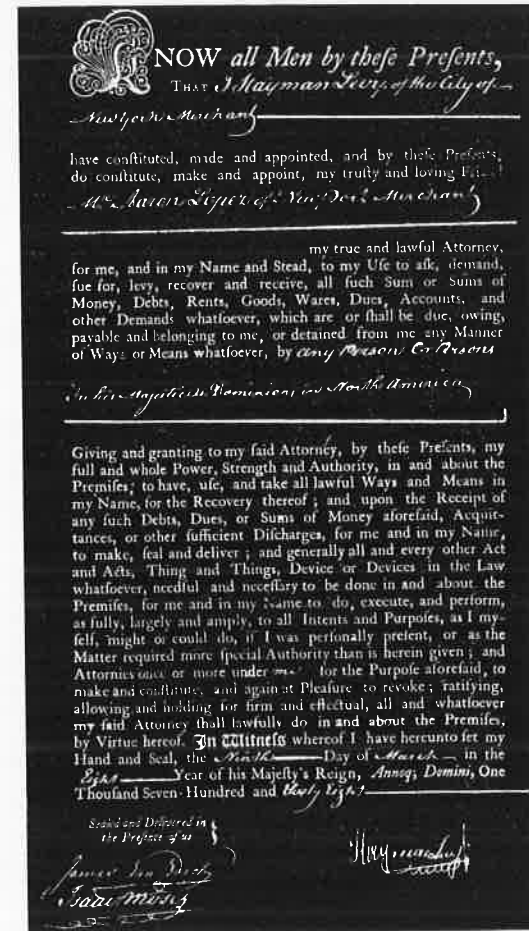
JEWISH MERCHANTS IN COLONIAL RHODE ISLAND

A TAX BOOK OF 1772

Names of those who left Rhode Island at the outbreak of the war and were not registered in the above list.

Hart Nap. Jun	£ 0.2.0
Harth Nathan	1.7.0
Isaac Moses Second	0.2.0
Miers Jacob	0.2.0
Polack Jacob (estate)	10.3.0
Polack Asher	0.2.0
Polack & Hayes	1.7.0
Pinto Joseph	1.0.0
Philips Eremiah	1.6
Simpson Samuel	2.0
Siexas Moses	1.7.0

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Fac-simile of an Agreement between Aaron Lopez and Hayman Levy of New York, March 8, 1768.

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 Aaron Lopez to Hyman Levy Feb. 28, 1765.
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 Aaron Lopez to Isaac DaCosta — Sept. 17, 1767.
 Aaron Lopez to Moses Henriques — Sept. 29, 1767.
 Aaron Lopez to Abraham Pereira Mendes — Sept. 27, 1767.
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