

**Crossing Borders --The Transatlantic Migrations of the Nunes
Carvalhos over 500 years**
Keith and Nancy Atkinson

Description: This paper recounts the story of a Jewish family that started in Portugal 350 years ago this year and crossed many borders on the way to the New World - not only geographic boundaries but religious and racial ones as well. Having spent five years and travelled many miles tracing the routes the Nunes Carvalhos took, the presenters would like to share their journey of discovery and reflect on what they have learned.

Keith Atkinson is a retired CEO/CFO of a UK Public company investing in Sub-Saharan Africa. **Nancy Atkinson** trained as a nurse at St. Bartholemew's Hospital, London. On Keith's retirement, they commenced a five-year project researching Nancy's family roots, particularly those of her Sephardic Jewish ancestors, the Nunes Carvalhos. In doing this, they have traveled to Jamaica, Barbados, Charleston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Amsterdam. One volume of their book, *The French Collection*, has been printed. Volume 2 will include Inquisition research in Portugal.

(P) means point to item on screen

Good afternoon. Thank you . Its a privilege to be talking to you all today . Nancy, a 13th generation Carvalho , & myself are here to present the Nunes Carvalho family story- -500 years in just 30 minutes! So fasten your seat-belts & hold your breath!

As you are mostly Librarians I should say first that as a youngster I loved going by bus to my local library & taking out a book--often I would read it at once & be back the next day to replace it. By 13 or 14 I had discovered the Reference section & did much of my homework there. Now local libraries seem full of Computers, DVDs Newspapers & coffee shops. But in contrast major city libraries have become outstandingly better. And online archives superb.

But I do miss the physical book. What I wonder will my children do with all the books we leave ! Give them to Charity? Or shred them?

The facilities we particularly valued for our Carvalho research were;

The UK National Archives at Kew, London, its online document ordering & reproduction facilities are brilliant; conveniently it also houses the Mormons' London History Centre.

The British Library which contains every book, newspaper & map ever published in the UK & British Commonwealth . Its online British Newspaper Archive, free ordering & reasonable copying services are outstanding.

The London Metropolitan Archive which includes all the Bevis Marks & Spanish-Portuguese London Congregation records, and those of Barbados; largely free

The StadsArchief in Amsterdam for its amazing UNESCO Heritage awarded collections of the Portuguese Jewish Community, especially Notarial Documents, now the subject of a major indexing project; with reasonable paid-for online documents; but in Dutch & Portuguese.

Torre do Tombo in Lisbon, the Portuguese State Archive for its vast collection of Inquisition documents; but their online service can be expensive & patchy & is all in Portuguese--which we do not read .

Finally the help from social media --Facebook Specialised Groups are outstanding. We particularly favour Facebook's Sephardic Diaspora & Tracing the Tribe especially with help with those translations of Dutch & Portuguese, often generously & freely given. We have made & actually met

many real friends that way. Curiously getting old Hebrew documents translated has been the hardest task of all.

So what was our Carvalho project?

SLIDE 1 THE TRANSATLANTIC MIGRATIONS OF THE NUNES CARVALHOS

We traced the Carvalhos from Portugal via Spain to Amsterdam, London, Barbados, Charleston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

Portugal is where we start our story .

SLIDE 2 NUNES CARVALHOS -13 GENERATIONS-500 YEARS

Until we started Nancy had not really taken it in that she was a quarter Jewish--she certainly did not know her paternal grandfather **(P)** a respected London physician had been born in Jamaica illegitimate & coloured-- her late father had never discussed these matters with her.....

So imagine our surprise when she took a DNA test & it confirmed a 27% Jewish origin but also 6% African-- Mandenka & Yoruba tribes of West Africa, clearly indicating slave ancestry. Her Jamaica ancestry is astonishing enough but then we started to uncover the Carvalho story --

But with limited time I'm going to concentrate on the highlighted names;

Grandmother Adele's father David Carvalho **(P)** was a famous--infamous--New York handwriting expert who had provided evidence to the Dreyfus trial in Paris c 1900 as well as expert testimony in thousands of US criminal & divorce cases.

David's father was Solomon **(P)** Nunes Carvalho, an early daguerrotypist or photographer, who had crossed the Rockies on horseback in the winter of 1853/4 with Col Fremont, mapping a possible railroad route to California, the Union's latest state. He was also a successful portrait painter;

Solomon's father David **(P)** NC was an early instigator of the Reformed Israelite Movement here in Charleston. David & his elder brother Emanuel **(P)** had originally crossed from London, England to Bridgetown, Barbados where they lived in the early 1800s, attached to Nidhe Israel Synagogue, before moving to Charleston.

The Carvalho family had lived in London for most of the 1700s as jewellers, working in semi-precious stones in the East End . They had emigrated there around 1708 from Amsterdam, Holland where Abraham **(P)** had been a shipping broker, trading in particular with Oporto, Portugal from where he had fled the Portuguese Inquisition around 1689.

In Portugal Abraham had been baptised as Catholic "Manuel" **(P)** on 24 March 1650 .Jews baptised their children into Catholicism as soon as they could to provide protection if challenged. This was in Trancoso, an inland village near the border with Spain, from where the family probably first came, possibly from Salamanca, a lovely old town just over the border.

Once safely in Amsterdam Manuel adopted the Hebrew name "Abraham" and his wife Leonor became "Sarah".

Manuel's father was Francisco **(P)** Nunes Carvalho, nicknamed Coca, a merchant. He had 11 children, most of whom became targets for the Inquisition for being secret or crypto-Jews. Two died young; at least one Joao was actually burnt at the stake at the auto-da-fe for heresy.

The Portuguese Inquisition commenced in 1496 & continued for centuries. Sephardic Jews were expelled, forcibly baptised as Catholics, or worse. Some, known as "Conversos" or "New Christians", never reverted to Judaism but others, "Crypto-Jews" practiced in secret for generations.

Over time many fled to more tolerant cities like Amsterdam, where mostly as merchants, they took Jewish first names & returned openly to Judaism. But they often had family remaining in Portugal, with whom they did business. So, to avoid endangering relatives and friends there, they used aliases in their transactions.

SLIDE 3

TRANCOSO/PORTO/SALAMANCA/BAIONA/MAP

(P) SALAMANCA TRANCOSO OPORTO BAIONA

SLIDE 4 THE VILLAGE OF TRANCOSO

In 1664 Manuel's mother Beatrix & some of his siblings were attacked by the Inquisition. This was a terrifying organisation answerable only to the Pope & the King. Being found guilty of **QUOTE** "heresy, apostasy & Judaism" could mean being burnt at the stake. Faced with this Manuel aged just 13, like many others, voluntarily confessed the error of his ways.

We have had the 230 page hand-written document of his trial process from Torre do Tombo translated-expensive & it

took months. There are over 40,000 of these Trial Transcripts in Lisbon, one per victim, largely untranscribed & untranslated; a treasure trove for Sephardic family history.

On a good day they look something like this!

SLIDE 5 SAMPLE FROM ORIGINAL PORTUGUESE

A terrified 13 year old Manuel, having confessed to all charges, was led into the public square in front of thousands to hear his fate at the auto-da-fe or Act of Faith. As he had "voluntarily" confessed he was merely "reconciled" ; all his possessions were confiscated by the Church, he was excommunicated then instructed in prison in the Catholic faith so as to return to the true Church. Better than the alternative.....

SLIDE 6 THE AUTO-DA-FE

See the bonfires(**P**), the victims(**P**), the crowds(**P**), the crucifixes(**P**).

For the next few years Manuel kept a low profile --he was a crypto -Jew. He became a successful merchant--a shipping broker-- and in 1678 aged 27 married Leonor in Porto.

SLIDE 7 OPORTO, NORTHERN PORTUGAL

Its a lovely town now on the Douro River--well worth a visit.

Soon they had a son Isaac--baptised Francesco in the Catholic faith, Esther baptised Beatris, Raphael baptised Jeronimo & Rachel baptised Caterina. In 1689 the re-invigorated Inquisition attacked him again accusing him of "relapse into heresy"..

Spain was not quite so dangerous for a Jew at that time, so claiming he needed to visit Spain to raise finance to pay off his creditors, he crossed the border to a coastal Spanish town, Baiona then took a ship to Amsterdam, leaving Leonor & his 4 children behind. They were apart for two years.

In the StadsArchief of Amsterdam we were astonished to discover poignant letters from Leonor to her husband, QUOTE "Get me out of this purgatory", "twice the Inquisitors have visited me", "I have not had answer from my many writings", "the children are well"-- with stories of her various troubles.

SLIDE 8 LETTERS FROM LEONOR

Although we may now struggle to read this, in 1690 for a woman this would be considered quite an educated hand. Several of these letters remain untranslated so if anyone here who reads Portuguese can help, we'd appreciate it? Finally the family joined Abraham in Amsterdam, Leonor became Sarah and the 4 children took their Hebrew names.

Frustrated by being thwarted by his "absence in Holland" the Inquisition prosecutors held a second trial for Manuel, then had an effigy of him burnt at the stake in 1696. His brother Joao had actually been burnt alive.

In Holland Jews enjoyed religious freedom and as international traders, contributed significantly to Amsterdam's booming economy. By 1675 the city had a magnificent synagogue--still magnificent today. Most Jews lived nearby on Judenbreestraat;

SLIDE 9 JUDENBREESTRAAT (Jew bridge street)

Abraham's neighbours were the Montaltos at No 1, Rodrigues at no 3, da Costas, Pintos (at 7 & 9), the Osarios and round the corner at number 4 the Rembrandts!

So lets recap where have we got to now with this family?

SLIDE 10 THE NUNES CARVALHOS -13 GENERATIONS-500 YEARS

In 1705 Abraham & Sarah's eldest son **Isaac (P)** married **Judith Rodrigues Lopes**, a Sephardic girl who had escaped from Madrid. An orphan, she had won a lottery for a Community dowry --but payable only if she found a husband! Fortunately she found Isaac-- he collected the cash!

Many Sephardics also settled in London, where in 1701 the community built a magnificent new synagogue Bevis Marks. In 1708 **Isaac and Judith** emigrated to London, Isaac a jeweller in the City. From Judith's Will of 1735, written in Portuguese, it seems they were quite well-off & the Carvalho family remained in London for nearly a century continuing to work in semi-precious stones and attending Bevis Marks. Isaac's son Samuel had a son--the first Solomon Carvalho.

US Historian Bertram Korn wrote **QUOTE** "**Solomon (P)**, despite his modest circumstances, instilled in his children a love of learning and refinement which went beyond the simple education . . . received in the Congregational School of Bevis Marks. Two of his (Solomon's) sons, **Emanuel and David (P)** demonstrated in both their vocations and associations that they took their father's aspirations well to heart."

Bevis Marks had connections with both Barbados & Charleston-- these 2 cities were also closely linked commercially, even after US Independence. When Nidhe Israel in Bridgetown, Barbados needed a hazan in 1799 Emanuel accepted the post . He remained eight years but he got into frequent disputes with the Mahamed, complaining at his salary, keeping a cow in the cemetery to augment his income which QUOTE "he permitted to dung the cemetery". Eventually bankrupt, he left for New York to become Professor of Hebrew at Polonies Talmud Torah School.

Surprisingly, at least to us, the 1810 Census shows 3 resident slaves in Emanuel's household---in New York City, presumably domestic staff, perhaps brought with them from Barbados.

When in 1811 Beth Elohim **Charleston** offered him the post of hazan he took it-- **QUOTE** "the warm climate would suit him better.....the best post on the continent." He lived at 29 Hasell Street just up the road from Beth Elohim--this is the somewhat refurbished property now!

SLIDE 11 29 HASELL STREET, CHARLESTON

Emanuel established a school in Charleston teaching Hebrew & Spanish but was soon in trouble again over his liberal views. Not that liberal though as in 1814 he purchased **QUOTE** "for \$250 a certain negroe boy named Sandy, sober, honest & no runaway". A *hazan*--buying slaves? No problem in Charleston then.

QUOTE "Emanuel taught the children to sing in a very handsome manner & did away with the discordance which attends every synagogue". But the adjunta said he was "disrespectful " & suspended him. An actual riot resulted in the synagogue **QUOTE** "with clubs and bruising boxing".

Shortly after, “sick & quarrelsome”, he resigned to become the *hazan* in **Philadelphia**, where he died in 1817 after publishing a Hebrew grammar & dictionary.

Emanuel's younger brother **David**, Nancy's direct ancestor, had emigrated to Barbados in 1803, joining Emanuel at Nidhe Israel, helping with readings. But as a teenager David found the synagogue discipline hard, & became **QUOTE** “inebriated so as to be unfit for his duties” and was dismissed. Unable to pay his passage home to London he remained with Emanuel, going with him to NYC then Charleston.

SLIDE 12 DAVID NUNES CARVALHO, CHARLESTON C 1830

This is the earliest image of any Nunes Carvalho we have found so far.

In Charleston David met & married **Sarah Cohen d'Azevedo**, daughter of a visiting *hazan* from London's Bevis Marks. A leading member of “The Reformed Society of Israelites”, proponents of a more liberal community, David attracted enemies. He was **QUOTE** “assaulted, insulted & abused by Nathan Hart in the Synagogue”. A court case “State v Carvalho” judged that **QUOTE** “disturbing a congregation of Hebrews was an indictable offence”.

The 1820 Charleston Census shows him with 6 children & 2 female slaves, living in King Street as a jeweller & watchmaker.

He participated in the publication of a new prayer book & hymnal and, as a young father devised a charming Naming Ceremony to give the same recognition to daughters as sons received at circumcision.

David's eldest son was **Solomon** . He worked throughout the West Indies in the 1830's. Aged 23 he was shipwrecked off Delaware. Through his efforts, all the passengers & crew were saved. By drawing portraits of the inhabitants where he had swum ashore, Solomon raised the money to return to Charleston.

That year Beth Elohim synagogue in Charleston was destroyed by fire & Solomon painted by memory a vivid impression of the interior . He was paid \$50 for it--the maximum the adjuncta was then permitted to spend.

SLIDE 13 SOLOMON'S PAINTING OF BETH ELOHIM

In 1841 the family moved back from Charleston to Barbados, David as a watchmaker, his son Solomon now 26, painting portraits & miniatures. But within a few weeks of arrival 2 of David's children died of yellow fever---teenagers aged just 15 & 19. We saw their joint headstone in the Jewish cemetery there.

Soon after this tragedy the family left for Philadelphia where Solomon aged 30 met and fell for the lovely 20 year old Sarah Miriam Solis. Her father had died, so Solomon wrote to her brother seeking his approval to their marriage.

Extracts of what he wrote; (POINT & PAUSE!)

SLIDE 14 SOLOMON'S MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

Dear Sir, I take the liberty to address you on a subject of much moment & importance to me.....

For your esteemed sister, Sarah, I have conceived other than mere commonplace feelings....

(P) Her amiability, sweetness of temper, congeniality of disposition and I dare hope a reciprocity of sentiment, have awakened in my bosom feelings of a deep and ardent affectionas her Guardian (may) I acquaint you with my pretensions and obtain your sanction that I may make her Honorable (P) proposals of Marriage.

To my Family connections you can make no reasonable objections. My personal character--although not entirely free from little peccadeleos of youth--.....have won....(me)....a respectable standing in Society

(P) My pecuniary means are sufficiently ample to offer to a wife all the comforts and necessaries of life if not all its luxuries.

Should I be so fortunate to receive your sanction.....I will cherish for your sister those feelings...I should wish a Husband to have for my own sisters.

Yours Respectfully

Solomon

N Carvalho

Not quite how my daughters' boyfriends put it when they asked me for their hands! I suppose I am are lucky they didnt just do it by Twitter.....

3 months later they were married. On honeymoon to the West Indies, they were ship-wrecked! They were a stunning young couple--here's Solomon;

SLIDE 15 SOLOMON NUNES CARVALHO

And just look at this portrait he painted of his lovely young wife Sarah

SLIDE 16 SARAH MIRIAM SOLIS CARVALHO

Its now at the Yeshiva Museum in NYC--I could not resist photoing Nancy in front of it

SLIDE 17 NANCY & SARAH

Yeshiva blogged "Here's Nancy from London, England virtually visiting her great great granny Sarah at Yeshiva!"

In 1852 Solomon had a gallery at 230 King St, Charleston. We cannot positively identify the building now (the house numbers have all changed) but this is an image of adjacent 233 (now 241) at the time.

SLIDE 18 233 KING STREET, CHARLESTON

In 1853 Solomon's father David in Philadelphia, purchased for \$600 (a considerable sum) **QUOTE** "Three Negro slaves- to wit Rose aged 37 years Dinah aged 35 years and Flora aged 70 years—Flora " not warranted sound"—

a mother and 2 daughters? This is curious. Was David buying their freedom? Was he an abolitionist? Or were they to look after him & Solomon's young family? Or was this something to do with a youthful indiscretion?

"All men are created equal"--but not in Charleston, not then.....

Solomon learned the Daguerrotype process-an early form of photography. His reputation grew so that Col. John Fremont asked him to be official photographer on his 1853 winter expedition across the Rockies to map a railroad route to California.

SLIDE 19 FREMONT'S FIFTH EXPEDITION WITH CARVALHO

The expedition set off from Kansas City (P) on horseback in September 1853. They suffered terribly in the freezing winter, taking 6 months to get to Utah. Solomon was too weak to continue and convalesced there, rescued by the Mormons, who only been in Utah a few years. The 1100 miles is now just a 17 hour drive. In LA Solomon met Samuel Labatt & together they created the Hebrew Benevolent Society, still in existence today.

The musket Solomon took on the expedition, is owned now by Dick Marshuetz the great-grandson of Solomon's daughter Charity. We saw it in Bar Harbour, Maine last year!

SLIDE 20 NANCY WITH SOLOMON'S MUSKET!

In 1856 Solomon published "Incidents of Travel & Adventure....with Col. Fremont". The book was a wild success with Solomon described as "Artist-Hero of the Wild West."

SLIDE 21 INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL 1st Edition

Steve Rivo a New York film-maker has directed "Carvalho's Journey", a documentary about Solomon, premiered in NYC at the Lincoln Center in January. Do try & see it.

SLIDE 22 CARVALHO'S JOURNEY BY STEVE RIVO

"By Dawn's Early Light" An exhibition of early Jewish American art featuring some of Solomon's paintings has just closed at Princeton University featuring our dear friend Dale Rosengarten who wrote extensively on Carvalho in the accompanying book. A more New York-focussed version opens in NYC Oct 28th till February.

SLIDE 23 SOLOMON'S PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN

In 1865 Solomon painted Abraham Lincoln for his 2nd inauguration. His son David always maintained that he went with his father to the White House for the sitting & "sat on Lincoln's lap & played with his watch".

As David would have been 17 this seems a somewhat fanciful claim!

In 1872 Solomon sailed to Martinique with David .

SLIDE 24 SOLOMON & SON DAVID EN ROUTE TO MARTINIQUE

But the trip caused Solomon eye problems & in 1873 he underwent surgery for cataracts. Cataract surgery in 1873 - Imagine the pain!

His subsequent diminished eyesight forced him to stop painting & there are no confirmed paintings by him after this time.

Solomon re-invented himself as a "Professor"--although academically quite unqualified!

In 1876 aged 61 he patented his Steam Heating System & was awarded the American Institute's Medal of Excellence.

SLIDE 25 "PROFESSOR " S N CARVALHO (P)

Solomon's grandchildren adored him. **QUOTE** "We all loved to visit him . I remember my darling grandfather....wearing a black velvet smoking jacket..... greeting us with a hug and a kiss....he entertained us royally. Grandmother too always seemedable to change the temper of her grandchildren into a pleasing one, as we all had (and still have) the hot

impatient tempers which we inherit from ...our Portuguese & Spanish forebears". By daughter Claire Carvalho.

Solomon & Sarah had another son Solomon Solis, who later worked for Randolph Hearst as his business manager. Several consider him to be the role model for "Bernstein" in Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane". The Carvalhos were quite a family!

SLIDE 26 SOLOMON SOLIS CARVALHO

Solomon died in 1897 and he and his wife Sarah are buried in the 4th Shearith Cemetery in Queens, New York, as are several other Carvalhos including David & his wife Annie.

SLIDE 27 PHOTO OF SOLOMON'S HEADSTONE

Solomon's son David, became a handwriting expert or graphologist.

SLIDE 28 DAVID NUNES CARVALHO 1848-1925

David inherited his parents' good looks-- a striking young man, described as QUOTE an "Adonis, so handsome" by his future wife Annie when she, playing piano at a ball, first glimpsed him dancing. Within a few weeks they had married & 9 months later Nancy's grandmother Adele arrived.

Annie's mother-in-law, Sarah QUOTE "had to teach Annie how to cook as European-trained she could play the piano, converse in other languages, embroider beautifully, but could not even cook a potato".

David's handwriting career flourished. Author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, remarked that Carvalho's powers exceeded those of Sherlock Holmes! Claire Carvalho In her biography of her father David, "Crime in Ink", related how he had

provided evidence for the notorious Dreyfus treason trial in Paris . The New York Times wrote; **QUOTE**

"Carvalho, the Handwriting expert is to Testify in the Dreyfus case. Prof Carvalho's evidence is invited by those who insist that the documents upon which Dreyfus was convicted are forgeries" and in another case

"To weaken the prosecution's handwriting evidence the Defence lawyer hired his own expert David N Carvalho. This infuriated the prosecutor who called Carvalho, "a notorious self-promoter and headline grabber who had just received international notoriety in the famous Dreyfus case in France.

To assist in cases of fraud he also became an expert in typewriting fonts..... **QUOTE** "The words were written on an Underwood not a Remington Model 8".

SLIDE 29 DAVID NUNES CARVALHO--HANDWRITING EXPERT

Four years later Adele met & fell in love with Captain Ernest Ffrench, doctor with the British Army Medical Corps — up from Jamaica but according to his baptismal record "illegitimate & colored". Not quite what her widowed father David had in mind for his beloved daughter

SLIDE 30 ADELE NUNES CARVALHO FFRENCH 1876-1959

Here is 19 year-old Adele--rather like Nancy was at that young age! Neither Adele's father nor her siblings attended their Anglican Manhattan wedding. Perhaps he disapproved of Ernest's humble origins & doubtful pedigree-- or maybe

just because his “carer” Adele was leaving him. David never spoke to his daughter again. A pity because Ernest became an eminent Harley St London physician & it was clearly a happy marriage. Perhaps this turned her from Judaism?

So once again let us return to the full 13 generations of Carvalhos; **SLIDE 31**

Adele did not bring her children up in the Jewish faith. After husband Ernest died she had moved back to the US where in 1954 a California gallery planning an exhibition of her grand-father Solomon’s paintings, asked Adele for help--she wrote **QUOTE**;-

"I am not a Jewess ---none of the family are of that faith as we all have married out of it—and embraced that of our husbands’ (or wives). We were not brought up in it either and prefer not to be identified with it."

Curious considering her passionately committed ancestors, some of whom had actually died for their faith and others had had bare-knuckle fights in the Charleston synagogue over doctrine! Nevertheless, Adele was a keen tapestry maker and the Star of David can be seen in some of her works.

Since starting this research we have met up with several living Carvalho descendants --an author in Maine, an Insurance broker in New Jersey, a health professional in Baton Rouge & an eye surgeon in Grand Rapids. All are astonished at their colorful ancestors and their ancestors' amazing journey.

We have tried to show in this brief time , just one family's journey, migrating across many borders in search of better lives. Many freely collaborated with us to uncover the story,

especially the College of Charleston Library's inspirational Dale Rosengarten!

Perhaps we can share a few final **REFLECTIONS** with you?

When we commenced this research the Carvalhos were distant names in history--the whole process of discovery has resulted in us feeling we know each one of them personally--their troubles, their travels, their tragedies but also their successes especially in America.

SLIDE 32 REFLECTIONS ON THE CARVALHOS'

(P)Occupations We could admire how despite their obvious creative & intellectual talents, no Carvalho ever shirked hard, even manual work. They went from merchant to jeweller; from hazan to watchmaker; from photographer to inventor to graphologist. They were resilient, entrepreneurial, always seeking out new activities that they could engage in to make their living. The Carvalhos were an exceptional family but thousands made the same sort of journeys--maybe your own. Perhaps there is a Syrian refugee setting off on a similar journey right now?

(P)Liberalism We were struck by certain inconsistencies. In the early 1800s the Carvalhos were religious leaders with passionate reforming objectives but they were also slave owners. Historically oppressed as a family themselves, how did they reconcile their liberal ideals with this? Or as Southerners did they just not see this as an issue?

(P)Religion We were surprised how the religious passion of their ancestors faded away after just a few generations. After the reforming zeal --even martyrdom--of their early ancestors, what caused the family to lose its age-old faith?

Was it just coincidental that Adele and her siblings all “married out”? Was it a conscious rejection of their ancestors' faith--or just social mobility? Or was it just part of the general disenchantment with all religions in the 20th Century? Certainly however there was and still is a residual cultural Jewishness

We were heartened by both Spain & Portugal's recent announcements that they would offer EU passports to living descendants of those whose ancestors had suffered under the Inquisition. In January we met the Portuguese Consul-General in New York who said there was a steady flow of applicants for passports--which are of course now an EU Work permit

And to bring the story full circle to the start when we talked about books, even though most friends & family had viewed the story online, the real emotional impact was most felt when the physical book arrived in the post. So maybe there is a future for books!

Nancy & I hope you have enjoyed this whistle-stop tour of some real-life travellers along the Trans-Atlantic Highway & we hope to have encouraged you to look into your own distant ancestors.

Thank you.