



Jewish Genealogical Research and Historical- Geography of the Land of Israel:

Lessons from the Study of the Sephardi Entrepreneurial Elite

Dr. Joseph B Glass, Centennial College, Toronto,
Canada

Prof. Ruth Kark, Department of Geography, The
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Research by Kark & Glass on Sephardi Entrepreneurial Families

INTRODUCTION

Our paper presents an example of **Jewish Genealogy as a legitimate emerging field in Jewish Studies**

It strengthens Dr. Neville Lamdan's presented assessment of the status of modern scholarly Jewish genealogy and its potential as a sub-branch of Jewish Studies.

It also complements the work and methodologies presented here by **Prof. Aaron Demsky** on the *Abbaye's Family Origins* (a clarification of rabbinic sources, using genealogical methods to synthesize biography, historical geography and the communal recollection of genetic disorders), and **Prof. H.D. Wagner**, *Zdunska Wola (Poland)* (presenting a new tool for merging family records from discrete sources and partially overlapping databases).



Research by Kark & Glass on Sephardi Entrepreneurial Families

On-going studies and publications by Glass and Kark present a unique angle and fit into Jewish Genealogy

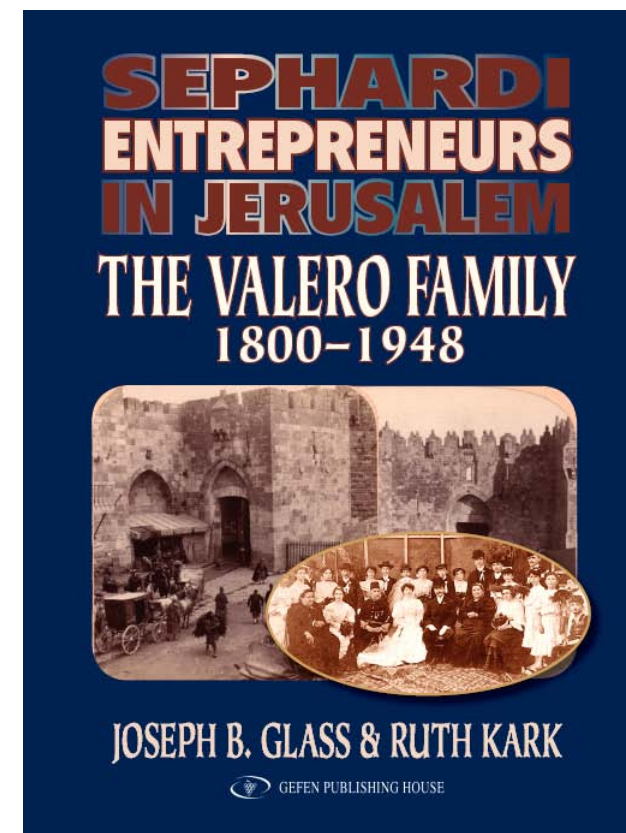
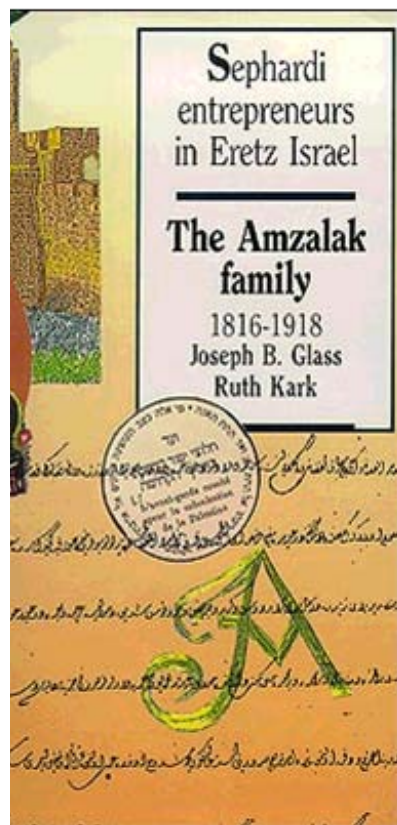
While historical-geographical research in Israel focused more on spatial processes (Jewish settlement, urbanization, etc.) it also dealt with institutions (e.g. Jewish National Fund, Jewish Agency for Palestine), collectives, groups and a few key individuals as agents of change but did not choose to use the family biography genre.

Our main research objective: In-depth investigation of the smaller unit of the extended family, focusing among other topics on its interrelationship with and long-term impact on place, space, and landscape.

Results: Inter-disciplinary studies of leading Sephardi families, combining genealogy with historical-geographical research.

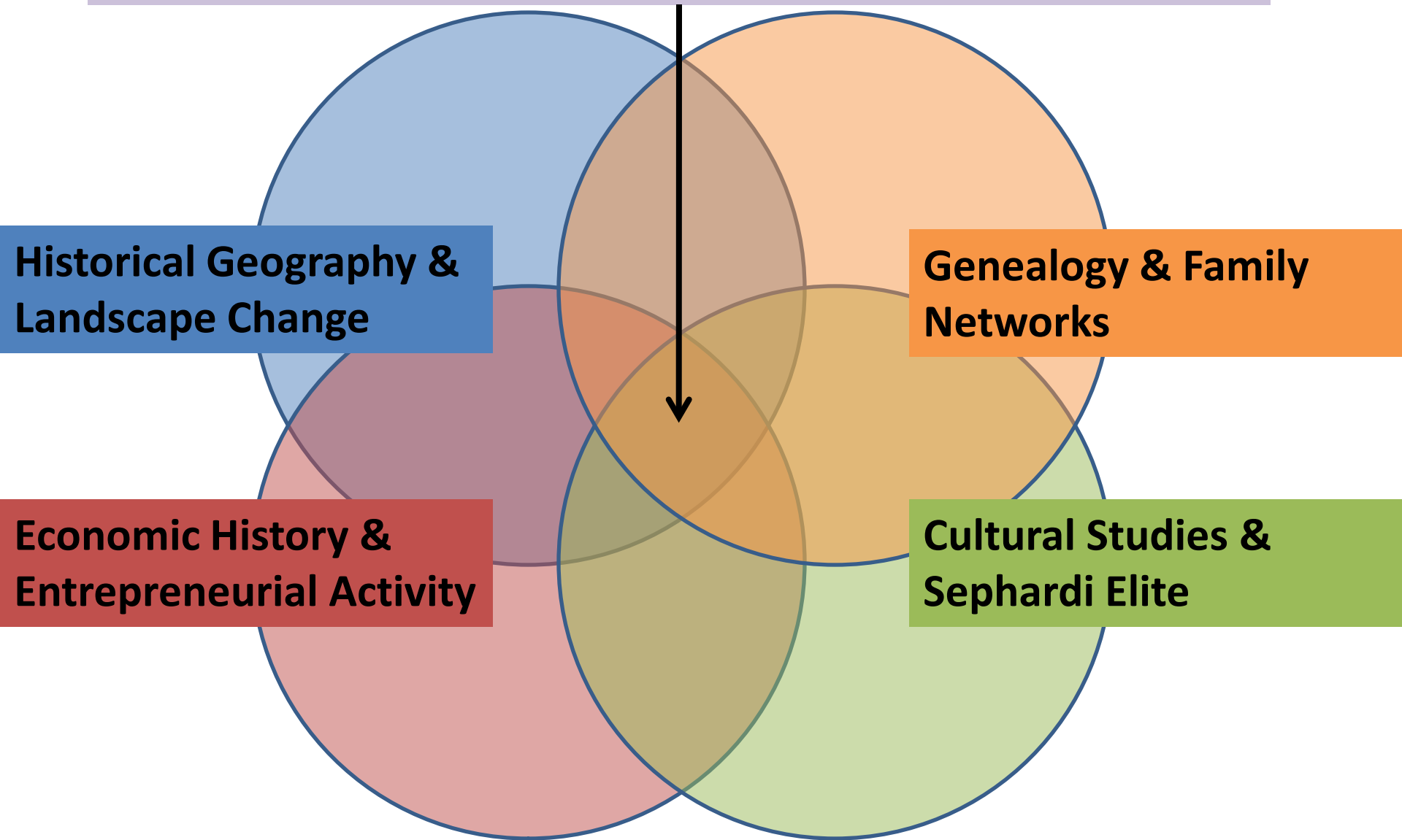
Research by Kark & Glass on Sephardi Entrepreneurial Families

Studies of Sephardi entrepreneurial families (Amzalak, Valero, Navon, Chelouche, Moyal) in late Ottoman and British Mandate Palestine can serve as a fruitful mode to merge genealogical aspects into historical-geographical research.





Conceptual Model for the Study of Sephardi Entrepreneurial Families and their Contributions to the Development of the Landscape of Eretz Israel



Historical Geography & Landscape Change



Father: Eliyahu Navon (1820-1896)

- rabbi & community leader
- administrator of philanthropic institutions
- connections with Ottoman government

Joseph Navon Bey (1852-1934)



Brother-in-law: Israel-Dov Frumkin (1845-1916)

- editor of the "Havatzelet" newspaper
- against the halukka system (dependence of the Jewish community on donations from abroad)



Uncle: Haim Amzalak (1828-1916)

- very wealthy family
- merchant with local & international relations
- British vice-consul at Jaffa
- Jewish community leader

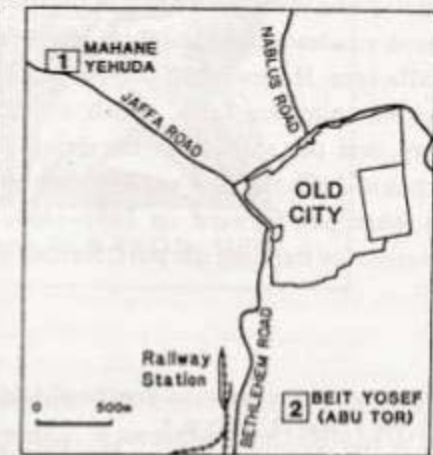
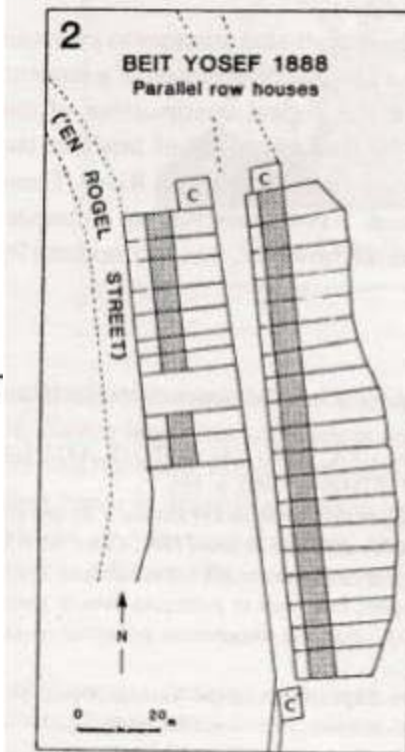
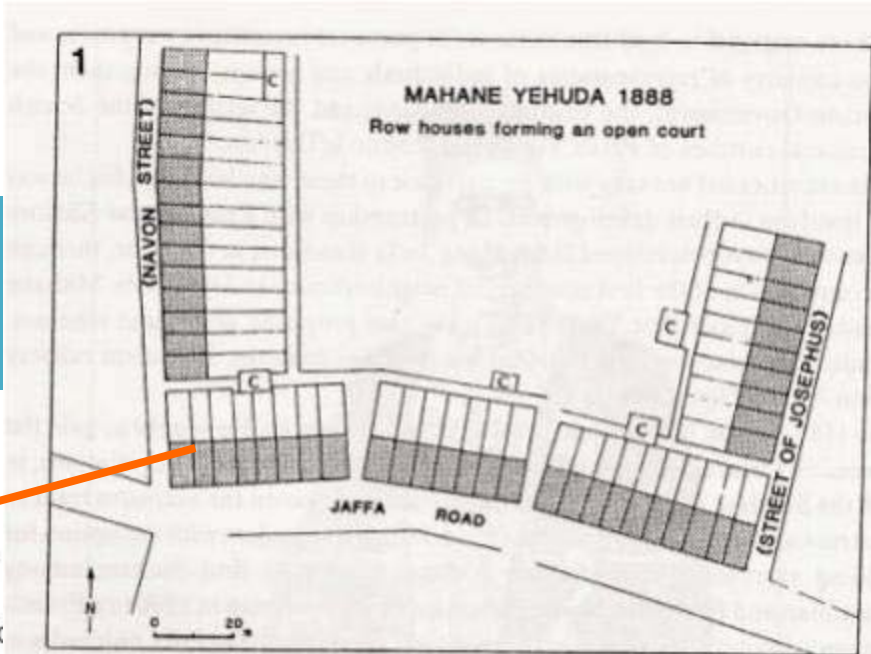
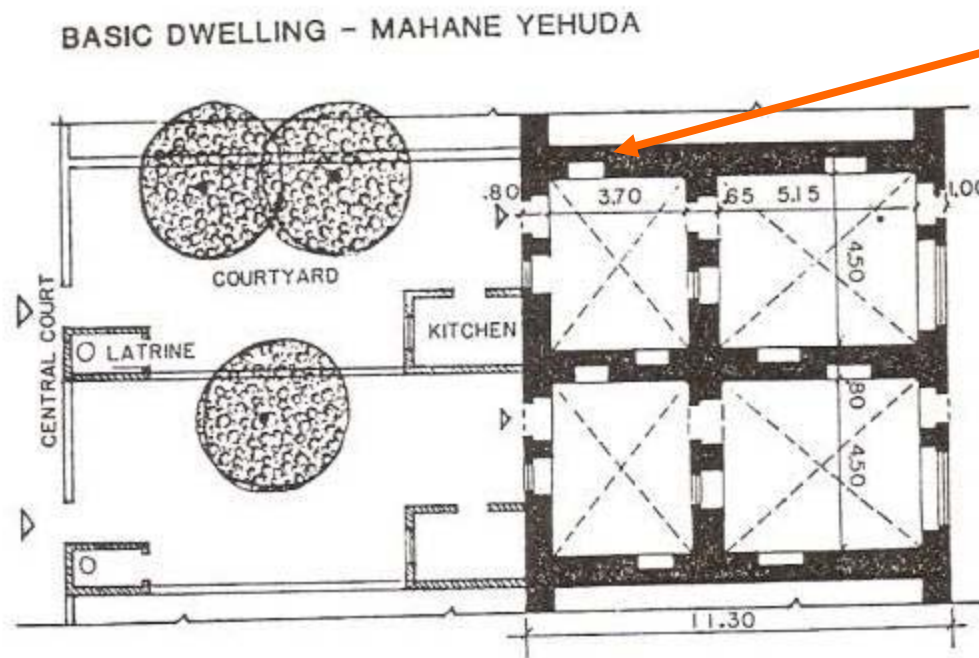


Business Partner: Johannes Frutiger (1835-1899)

- Banker with large-scale capital
- international and inter-communal connections

Historical Geography & Landscape Change

Commercial
Neighbourhoods in the
1880s



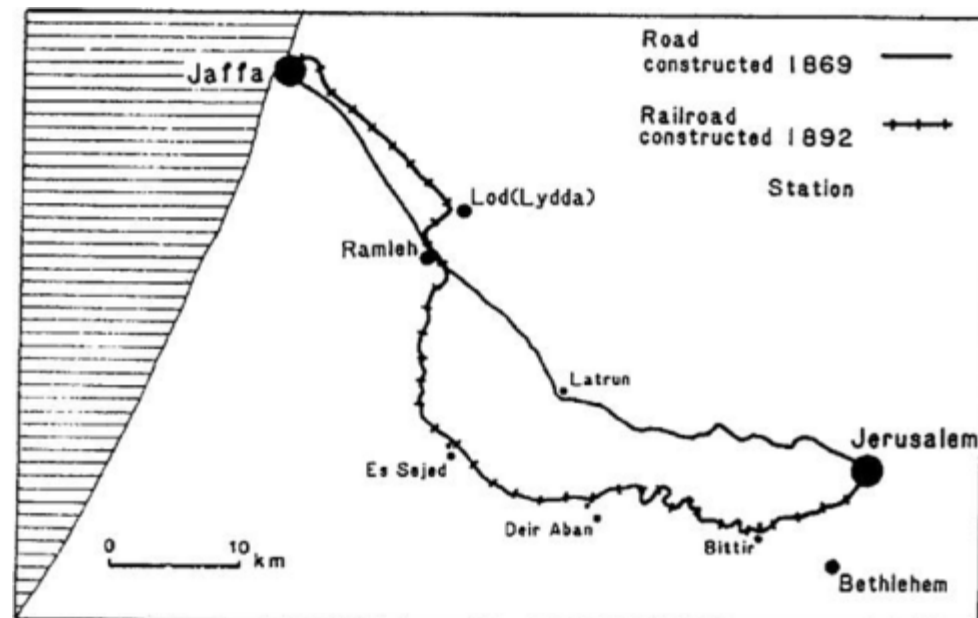
LEGEND

- C CISTERN
- HOUSE
- PLOT

Historical Geography & Landscape Change

- Family network important for understanding process of receiving railroad concession
- 1885 beginning of planning with financial support from Frutiger
- Hope for support of Ottoman Minister Kamal Pasha through Musa Pasha Al-Hussaini
- Support of British & other consuls through Haim Amzalak and family connections to Jewish leadership in Constantinople
- Concession granted 28 October 1888 for 71 years, Jaffa-Jerusalem & to Nablus & Gaza
- Opening 26 September 1892 - 87 km, 7 stations, significantly reducing travel time & facilitated movement of goods

Development of Jaffa-Jerusalem Railroad



Economic History & Entrepreneurial Activity



Haim Aharon Valero
1847-1923



Jacob Valero migrated to Jerusalem from Turkey

Moneychanger in the market & elevated to conduit from transfer of funds from Europe (PAKUAM, Rothschilds, Franz Josef I)

Haim Aharon took over direction of the bank following deaths of father & brother

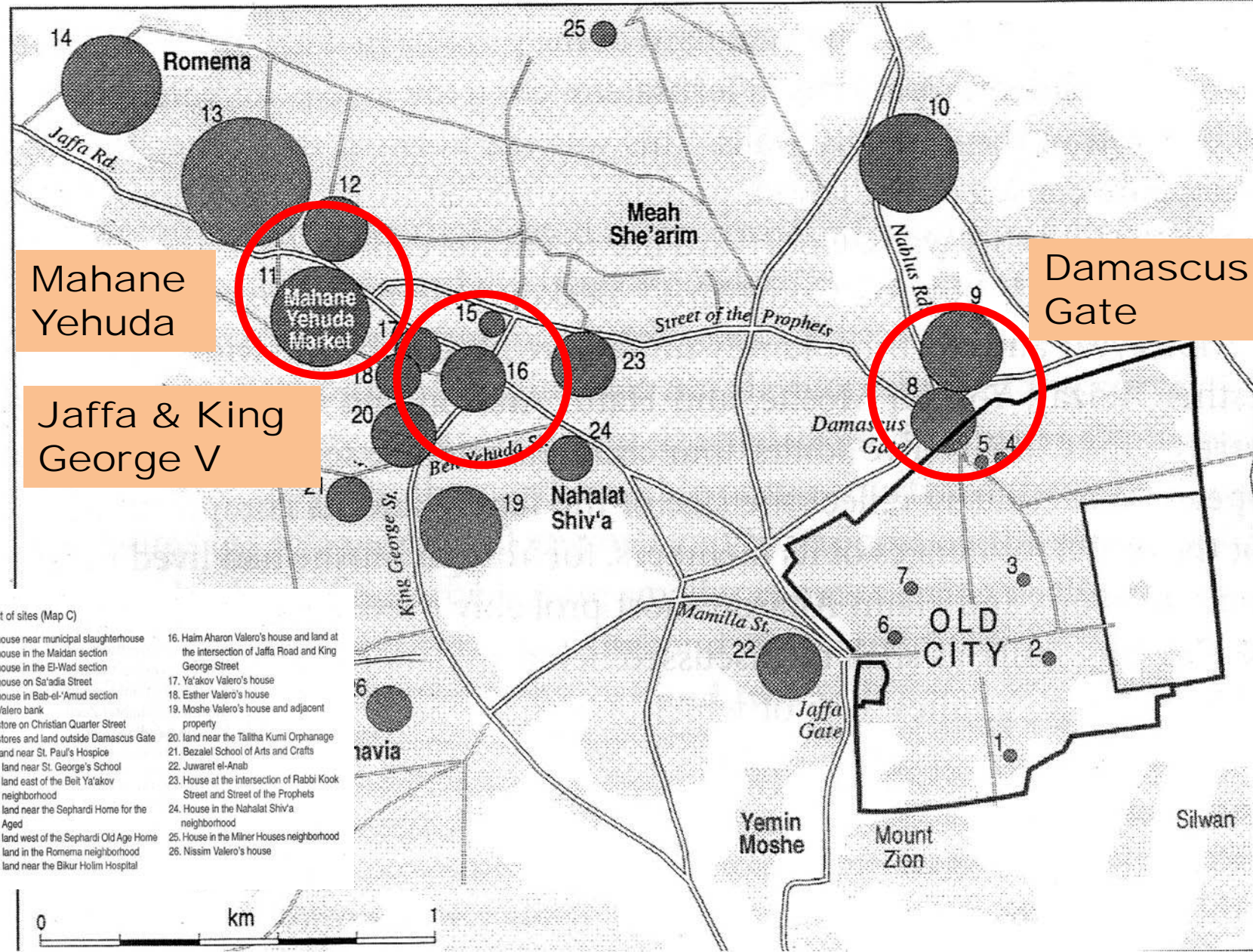
Attempted to include his sons in the bank with the hope of being like the Rothschilds

Investment in land - Jerusalem, Jaffa, Hebron, Wadi Hawareth, & other areas.

Limited development - neighborhoods or commercial properties not initiated

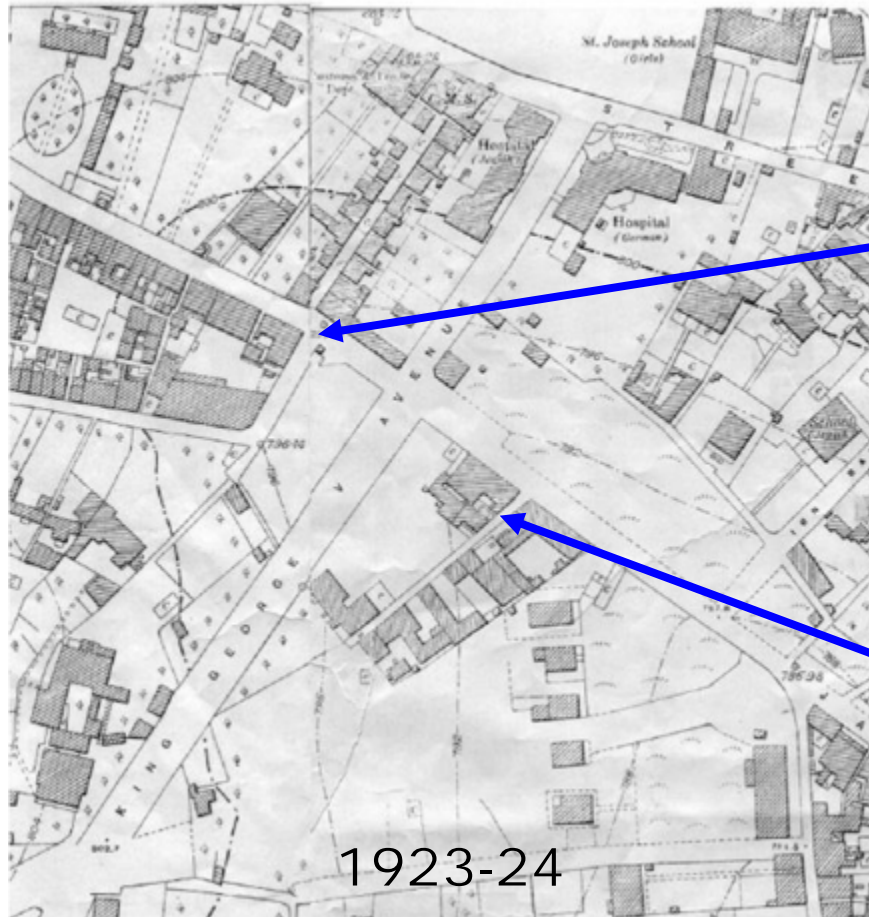
Economic History & Entrepreneurial Activity

Valero Properties in Jerusalem and Areas of Development



Economic History & Entrepreneurial Activity

Development of King George V Street & Jaffa Road intersection during the British rule



1923-24

Yaakov
Valero
house

Gabriel
Valero
house &
clinic

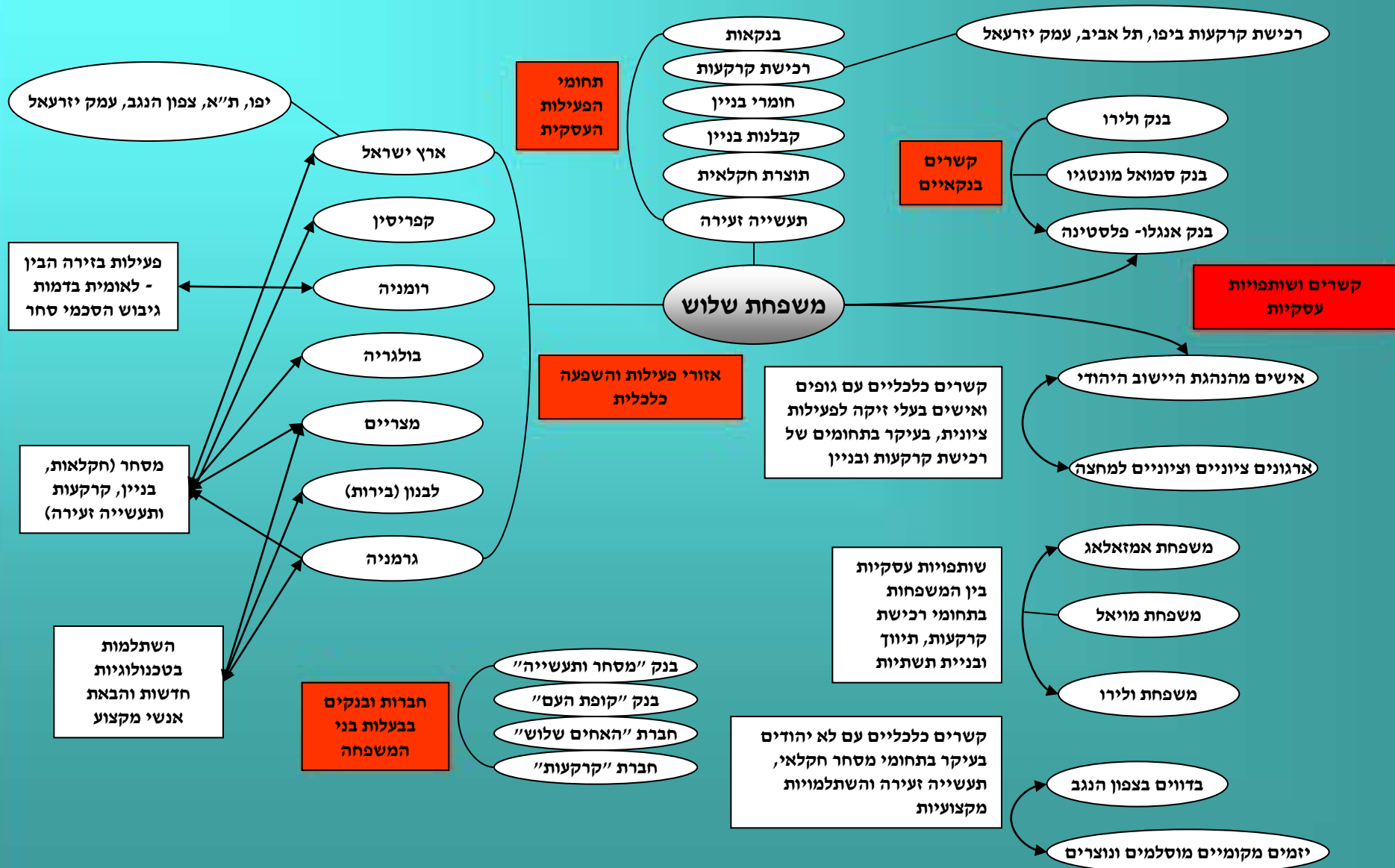
H.A.
Valero
house



1936

- Paving of King George V & beginning of development of new Central Business District
- Additional properties on Rabbi Akiva, King George, & Bezalel Streets

- One & two-storey buildings
- Stores & 2nd floor apartments
- Key-money rental





Avraham Haim Chelouche (1867-1925)

- Traded in agricultural produce (watermelons) with Negev Bedouins
- Partner with brother Yosef Eliyahu in real estate purchases and “Frères Chelouche”



Yosef Eliyahu Chelouche (1870-1934)

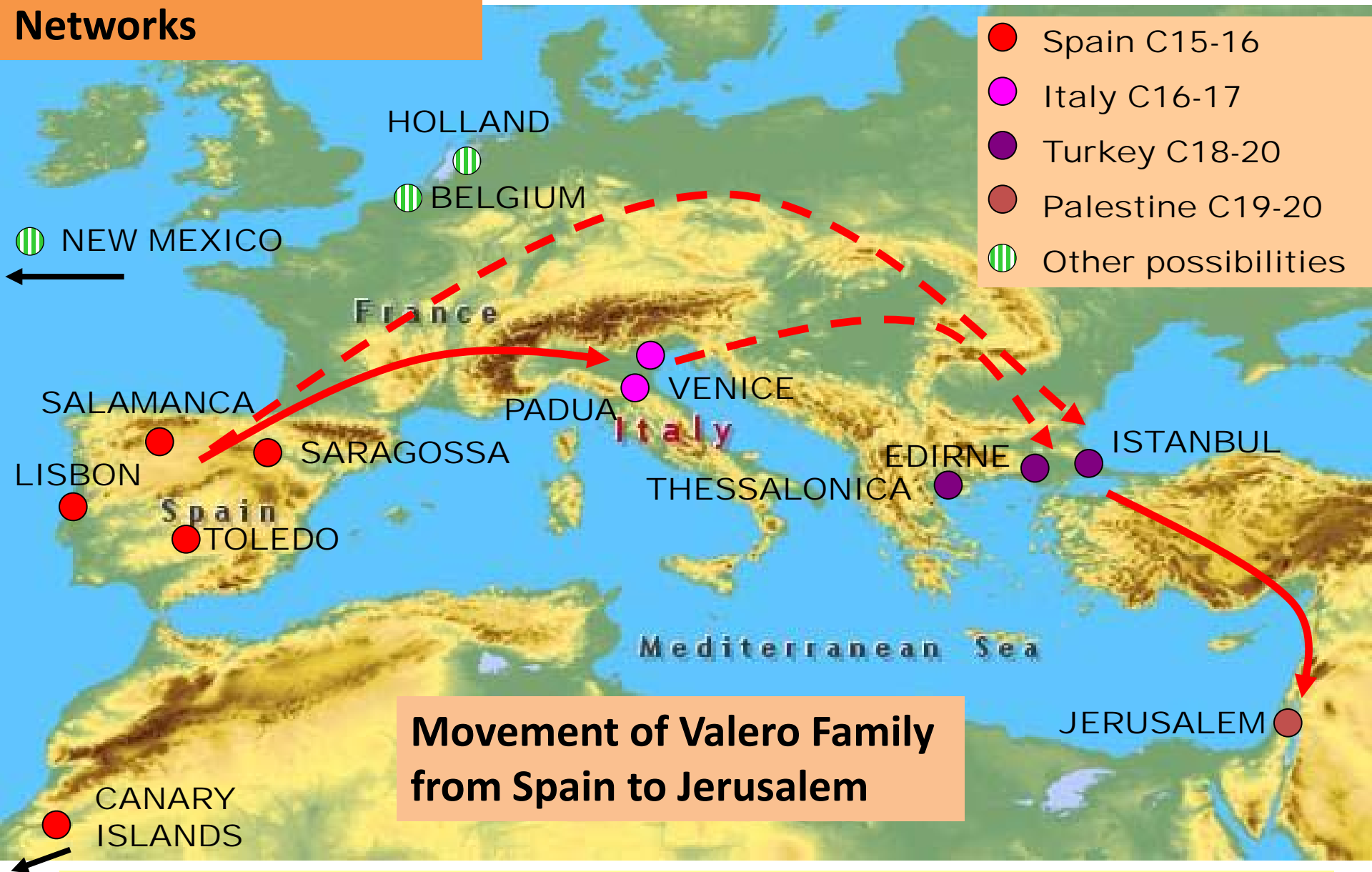
- Building supplies “Frères Chelouche” and contractor in Jaffa & Tel Aviv (Gymansia Herzlia, Alliance Israélite Universelle, Finegold house)
- commercial connections with local Muslim and Christian entrepreneurs in agricultural produce and industrial products (glue, tiles and silicate bricks)
- economic connections with Egypt and Beirut
- business partnerships with other Sephardi entrepreneurs (Valero, Moyal, Amzalak) in real estate, land purchases, and infrastructure development
- connections with Zionist institutions in land transactions and building (Arthur Ruppin, Yaakov Thon, Menachem Sheinkin)
- purchase land in Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Jezreel Valley, Safed
- founded Commerce and Industry Bank and Kupat Am Bank



Yaakov Chelouche (1880-1944)

- Clerk and later manager with Anglo-Palestine Company
- extended credit to Jewish farmers during World War I

Genealogy & Family Networks



The Valero family today resides in Israel (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv area & other locations) & abroad (United States, Great Britain, France, Argentina).



Genealogy & Family Networks

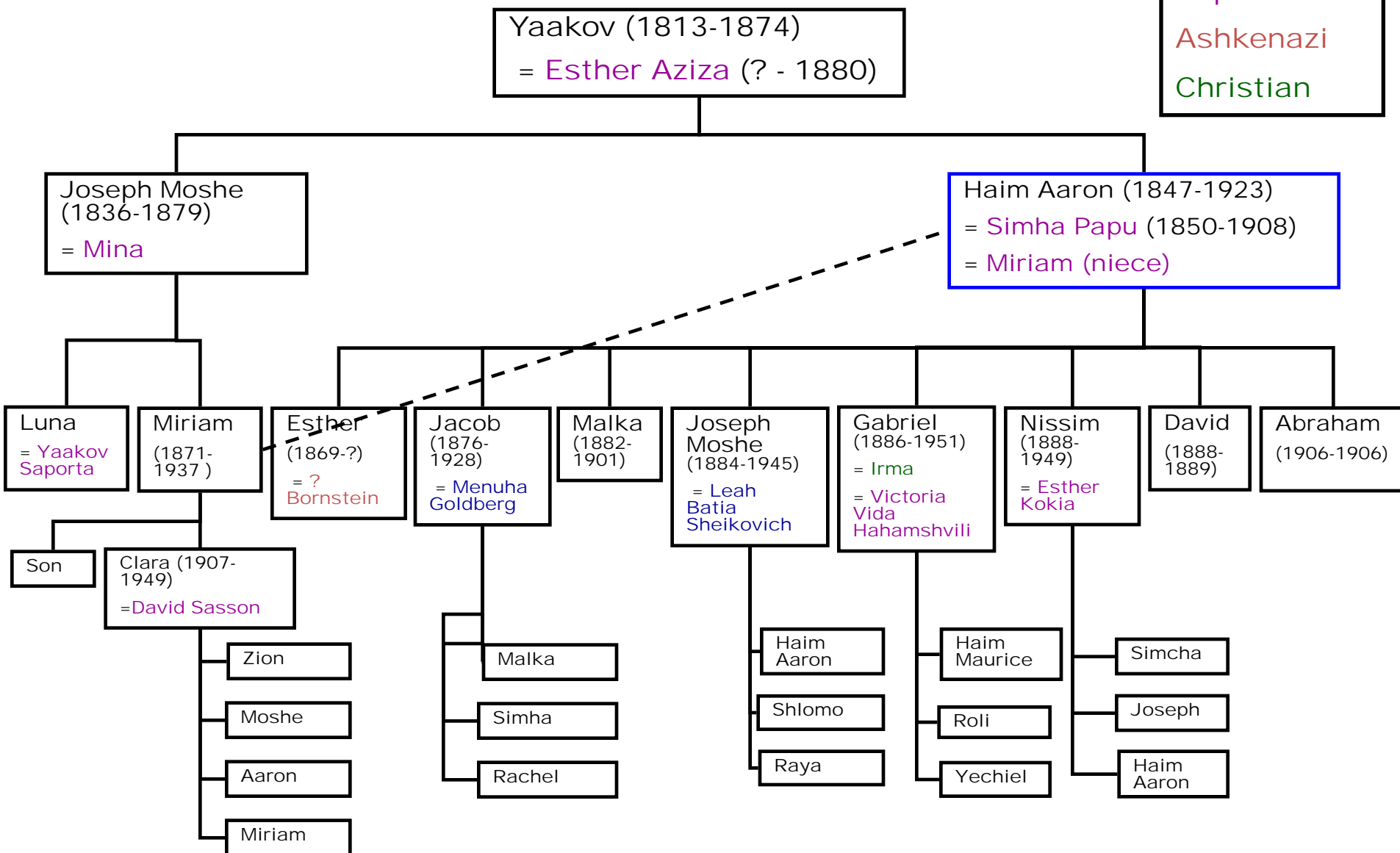
Valero Family and patterns of intermarriage

Ethnicity of spouses

Sephardi

Ashkenazi

Christian

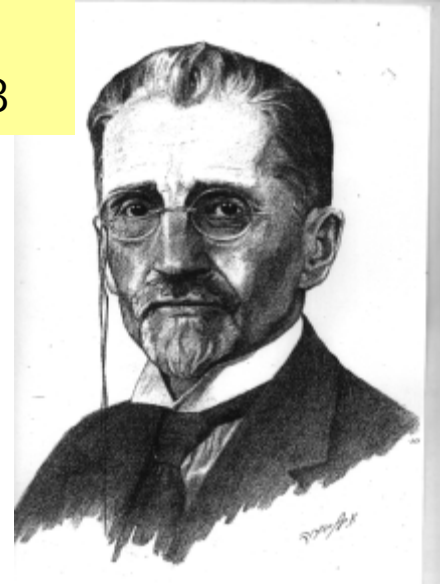




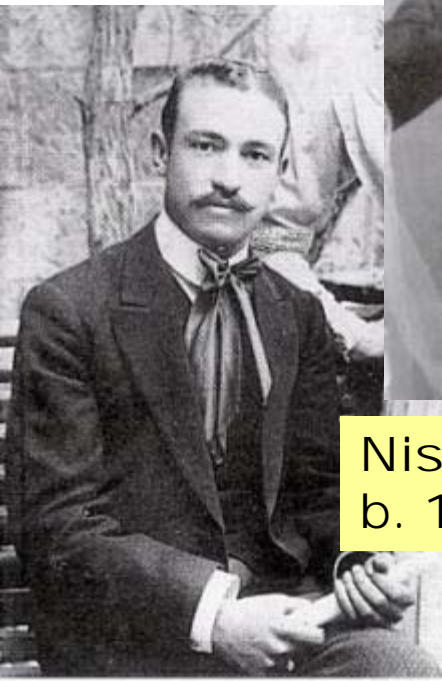
Haim Aharon
Valero b. 1847

Dr. Abraham
Abu Shdid

Eliezer Ben
Yehuda b. 1858



Moshe Valero
b. 1884



Nissim Valero
b. 1888



Leah Abu Shdid

Romance in Jerusalem

Itamar Ben-
Avi b. 1882



Genealogy & Family Networks

Search for Valero on Ellis Island passenger lists (www.ellisland.org)
Result = 117 records of which 6 appear to refer to Jews. All of 6 relate to a Moise Valero of Rio de Janeiro.

First Name: **Moise**
Last Name: **Valero**
Ethnicity: **Turkey, Hebrew**
Last Place of Residence: **Rio de Janerio, Brazil, So. Am.**
Date of Arrival: **Apr 07, 1916**
Age at Arrival: **44y**
Gender: **M**
Marital Status: **M**
Ship of Travel: **Vauban**
Port of Departure: **Barbados, British West Indies**
Manifest Line Number: **0001**

Tools for Genealogical Research

- Accessibility to genealogical resources has widen our horizons with regard to the Valero family following the publication of the books
- Availability of archival catalogues (and sometimes documents) on-line
- Availability of digitalized and searchable our of copyright books and newspapers

Search results for
Valero = 2



**OTTOMAN BANK
ARCHIVES AND
RESEARCH CENTRE**

A Garanti Bank Corporation

<u>CODE</u>	<u>SUBCODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FIRST DATE</u>	<u>LAST DATE</u>
PHIN30 01		VALERO MOISE J.	- - -	- - -
PP107	05	VALERO J. MOISE	- - -	- - -

Genealogy & Family Networks

Chelouche Family – Third Generation Social & Local Political connections



Yosef Eliyahu Chelouche (1870-1934)

- Married Farha Simha Moyal, daughter of Abraham
- friendly relations with Ottoman rulers and facilitated the resolution of problems between the Jewish community and the government
- member of Jaffa community committee, Jaffa municipal council
- member of Agudat Ha-Magen, Bnai Brith, and Ahuzat Bayit
- connections with Valero, Navon, Amzalak, and Moyal families



Yaakov Chelouche (1880-1944)

- Founder of Ahuzat Bayit
- Mediator and assisted in settling disputes between Jewish settlers and their Arab neighbours
- Freemason

Family Life of Jerusalem's Sephardi Elite

Following the life cycle

- Courting, engagement & marriage
- Childbirth, childrearing
- Childhood & education
- Old Age

Aspects of lifestyle

- Domestic servants
- Fashion & furniture
- Leisure & cultural activities
- Travel – leisure, medical, & business
- Living spaces



Brit Milah dress used by the Valero family for generations

Cultural Studies & Sephardi Elite

Education

Secondary education in Jerusalem –

Alliance Israélite Universelle, Hebrew Gymnasium, Jerusalem's Girl College, Terra Sancta College

Higher education outside Palestine –

University of Lausanne, American University of Beirut, Séminaire Israélite (Paris), Cambridge University, University of Birmingham, Oxford University



University of Lausanne



Terra Sancta College, Jerusalem



American University of Beirut

Cultural Studies & Sephardi Elite

Travel for leisure, medical, & business



Raya Valero, an early women driver in Palestine, 1938



Moshe & Batia Valero in front of the pyramids, circa. 1911



Picnic outside of Jerusalem in the village of Kubeibah



Cultural Studies & Sephardi Elite



**Travel Abroad by Members of
the Valero Family 1890s-1948**

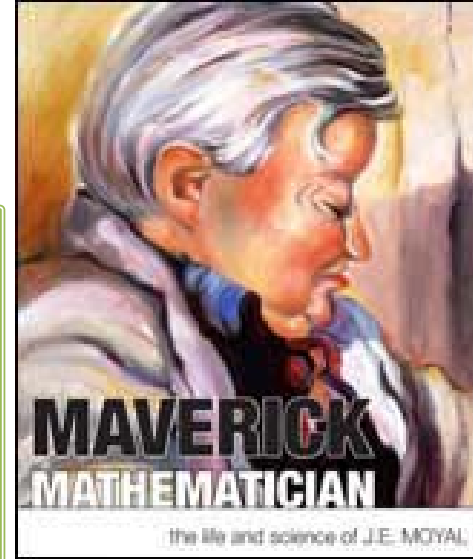


**U.S. Department of State, Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa Consular Post Records
(UD #448 Jaffa), Compiled by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater
Washington**

Surname	Given name	City / Country	Document Date	Volume / Box No.	Document No.
Moayal		Alexandria	11/28/15, 12/17/15	Vol. 015	Between 211A & 218
Moyal	David	Jaffa	9/27/15	Vol. 015	Between 211A & 218
Moyal	David	Jaffa	3/23/16	Vol. 015	Aft 401A
Moyal	David	Alexandria	7/2 1915	Vol. 016	
Moyal	Mrs D	Alexandria	7/2 1915	Vol. 016	
Moyal	Mrs. David	Alexandria	3/23/16	Vol. 015	Aft 401A

“Formative personal influences, however, had also already shaped his mind and conditioned a certain solitariness in his character. His parents — the flamboyant, tempestuous father [David], given to chasing an unruly Arab servant noisily around the house with a whip, and the ‘tactful’, innately conservative French mother — had proved an ill-assorted couple and, during 1915, Claire Moyal had abandoned her unhappy marriage and her small son to move to Egypt with the Greek Dr. Apostoli whom she would later marry. Left to be reared largely by Arab servants, Joe would carry the marks of a rejected child throughout his life.”

Source: Moyal, Ann. *Maverick Mathematician: The Life and Science of J.E. Moyal*. Canberra, A.T.C.: ANU E Press, 2006.



Concluding Remarks

Limited number of studies have fully utilized genealogical methodologies and studies and life histories of families to comprehend the true complexity of factors that contributed to decision-making processes in landscape change.

Genealogical research delves further into grasping the complexity of processes by **mapping intra-familial and extra-familial relationships**. This direction of research can focus on social class, culture, gender, age, religion, and ethnic groupings.



Concluding Remarks

Facilitates understanding of the continuity in the “building” of small family “empires” and their status in many spheres of the public and private life over time.

The study of entrepreneurial families in the Middle East in the modern era is a fruitful direction for the incorporation of genealogical research into historical-geographical research.

We are applying this to our on-going study of the two entrepreneurial families in Jaffa – Chelouche and Moyal - thus continuing to underscore the role of prominent Sephardi and Mizrachi families.

