

Dataset of Jews imprisoned, seeking sanctuary, or working at the medieval Tower of London

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	9
Jews in medieval England.....	9
The legal system	10
Money	11
Editorial conventions	12
Bibliography of key sources	13
Abbreviations.....	14
Glossary	15
1. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189.....	17
2. Isaac of Norwich.....	17
3. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220.....	18
4. Moses son of Brun.....	18
5. Bonamy Mutun AKA Boneme Mutun.....	19
6. Philip le Convers.....	20
7. Vives	20
8. Bella.....	20
9. Isaac	21
10. Anna.....	21
11. Abigail the Jew	22
12. Aaron	22
13. Benedict son of Abigail	22
14. Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat.....	24
15. Elias son of Vives	25
16. Isaac the Little AKA Isaac son of Solomon.....	25
17. Jacob son of Seniorete	26
18. Jacob son of Vives	27
19. Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera	27
20. Leo son of Margaret.....	28
21. Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham	28
22. Sampson Blund AKA Sampson son of Ursel	29

23. Seniorete son of Josce AKA Seniorete of Norwich.....	29
24. Simon of Norwich AKA Simon Cok son of Sarah	30
25. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236.....	30
26. Bonefey of Bristol.....	31
27. Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol	31
28. Isaac Pikethein	32
29. Lombard of Bristol.....	32
30. Solomon of Ilchester	33
31. Leo Blund of Milk Street	33
32. Samarianus	34
33. Wife of Samarianus.....	34
34. Bescota.....	35
35. Jacob son of Jacob	35
36. Pimenta	36
37. Solomon l'Eveske	36
38. Manasser son of Ursel.....	38
39. Licoricia of Winchester.....	38
40. Leo son of Deuleben	39
41. Antera daughter of Leo son of Deuleben.....	41
42. Sigge daughter of Leo son of Deuleben.....	41
43. Floria mother of Jacob of London.....	42
44. Belia wife of Jacob.....	42
45. Solomon	42
46. Abraham of Berkhamsted	43
47. Aaron I Blund	44
48. Elias Blund.....	45
49. Samuel Blund.....	46
50. Wife of Samuel Blund	46
51. Isaac of Norwich, convert, son of Moses.....	47
52. Aaron son of Hak of Worcester	47
53. Hak of Worcester	48
54. Sampson son of Hak of Worcester.....	49
55. John of Lincoln	49
56. Lincoln Jews accused of ritual murder	50
57. Master Benedict son of Master Moses of London, of Lincoln	51

58. Licoricia of Winchester.....	51
59. Floria Blund	52
60. Jacob Couperon AKA Couperon	53
61. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264.....	53
62. Elias Blund.....	54
63. Hagin son of Master Moses	54
64. Leo son of Preciosa	55
65. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267.....	56
66. Lombard of Cricklade	57
67. Bonevie of Oxford AKA Bonevie son of Vives	57
68. Abraham son of Josce	58
69. Bella of Bedford AKA Belia of Bedford	59
70. Anonymous Jews imprisoned for their tallage.....	60
71. Jospin of Basingstoke	60
72. Lombard of Basingstoke	61
73. Deudone of Winchester AKA Deudone son of Isaac.....	61
74. Saunte of Colchester AKA Saunte son of Ursel	62
75. Manasser of Bradworth.....	63
76. Benedict son of Cok.....	64
77. Jurnet son of Abraham	65
78. Josce of Warwick.....	66
79. Elias of Doncaster	67
80. Sampson son of Master Elias	68
81. Gywa	68
82. Leo of Norwich.....	69
83. Sakerel.....	70
84. Nicholas le Convers AKA Nicholas the Goldsmith.....	70
85. Jacob of Oxford AKA Jacob le Clerk	71
86. Jews imprisoned for tallage.....	72
87. Sampson le Mire	72
88. Capion.....	72
89. Cresse son of Sampson	73
90. Sampson Bunting.....	74
91. Anonymous son of Jacob of Oxford	74
92. Abraham son of Abraham.....	74

93. Besse	75
94. Josce of Oxford	75
95. Isaac son of Ursel	76
96. Haginet	76
97. Isaac of Calne AKA of Kaune/Kanne	77
98. Josce of Hereford	78
99. Abraham son of Deulecresse	79
100. Vivelot	80
101. Anonymous Jews celebrating a festival	80
102. Hake Heringaud	80
103. Belassez	81
104. Isaac of Canterbury	81
105. Vives Crespin	82
106. Four anonymous Jews celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur	82
107. Five Canterbury Jews	82
108. Jews in the tiled stable	83
109. Wife of Moses	83
110. Wife of Cok son of Jacob	84
111. Jews of Stamford	84
112. Lombard	84
113. The woman in the elephant-house	85
114. Fourteen Jews acting as servants	85
115. Two Jews of York	85
116. Three Jews of York	86
117. Jews in the tower beyond the elephant-house	86
118. Hagin son of Master Moses	86
119. Jews in Hagin's tower	87
120. Jews in Brother John's stable	87
121. Jews of Oxford	88
122. Jews of Hereford	88
123. Jews of Bedford	88
124. Jews in Brother John's tower	89
125. Jews in the cellar of Brother John's tower	89
126. Jews of Lincoln	89
127. Divers Jews fettered singly	90

128. Jews in Benedict of Winchester's tower	90
129. Jacob of Hammerstein.....	91
130. Jews of Wilton	91
131. Jewish woman with Benedict of Chippenham	91
132. Benedict of Chippenham.....	92
133. Bonamy of Henley	92
134. Jacob Kone.....	93
135. Aaron of Worcester.....	93
136. Two Cambridge Jews.....	94
137. Josce of Canterbury.....	94
138. Bondi.....	94
139. Aaron son of Vives	95
140. Solomon Bunting AKA Solomon son of Samuel Bunting.....	96
141. Brother of Solomon Bunting.....	97
142. Vives le Romonger	97
143. Floria of Winchester	98
144. Bonevie of Oxford AKA Bonevie son of Vives	98
145. Moses of Worcester	98
146. Hake le Dewe.....	98
147. Isaac of Campden.....	99
148. Moses of Hereford AKA Moses son of Hamo of Hereford.....	99
149. Isaac of Colchester.....	100
150. Joy of Lewes	100
151. Daughter of Joy of Lewes.....	100
152. Son of Josce Caton.....	101
153. Cresse of Bedford	101
154. Hagin of the Bridge.....	101
155. Elias Fretekat	102
156. Imprisoned Jews keeping a festival	102
157. Cok Martin.....	102
158. Moses of Dartford.....	103
159. Moses Pote.....	103
160. Belia	104
161. Samuel Cappay	104
162. Moses Blund	104

163. Ursel Brigge	105
164. Contessa Cat.....	106
165. Moses Garon	106
166. Meir son of Benedict.....	106
167. Meir son-in-law of Bunting.....	107
168. Abraham son-in-law of Aaron	107
169. Belaset.....	107
170. Abraham Winel.....	108
171. Jurnet of Kent AKA Jurnet of Canterbury	108
172. Master Isaac of Oxford	109
173. Hake son of Rose	109
174. Sampson of Standon	109
175. Isaac of Kent	110
176. Elias le Mire.....	110
177. Elias son of Chera	111
178. Joppe of Marlborough.....	111
179. Isaac Cat.....	112
180. Abraham Cat	112
181. A Southampton Jew	113
182. The community of the Jews of Norwich.....	113
183. Cresse of Wilton AKA Cresse of Bristol.....	113
184. Isaac of Thrapston.....	114
185. Josce son of Slema	114
186. Wife of Elias le Mire.....	114
187. Abraham of Dorking	115
188. Isaac of Warwick	116
189. Hake of Canterbury AKA Isaac of Canterbury.....	117
190. The community of the Jews of London	118
191. Four Jews keeping Rosh Hashanah.....	118
192. Five Jews of Canterbury	118
193. Abraham son of Hagin.....	119
194. Daughter of Isaac	119
195. Leo son-in-law of Isaac.....	119
196. Wife of Isaac	120
197. Gamaliel le Prestre.....	120

198. Lewa.....	121
199. Jews in the tiled stable	122
200. Jews of Stamford.....	122
201. Twelve Jews acting as servants.....	122
202. Two York Jews	123
203. Three York Jews	123
204. Jews of Oxford.....	123
205. Jews of Hereford.....	124
206. Jews of Bedford	124
207. Jews of Lincoln.....	124
208. Two Jews of York.....	125
209. Several Jews fettered individually	125
210. Josce of Wallingford AKA Josce of Germany AKA Rabbi Joseph ben Avraham of Germany	125
211. Isaac de Poulet the Elder.....	126
212. Manasser son of Aaron	126
213. Josce son of Deulesant.....	127
214. Abraham son of Isaac.....	128
215. Henry of Winchester AKA Henry de Dernegate	128
216. Jews of Bristol.....	129
217. 600 Jews held at the Tower.....	130
218. Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford.....	130
219. Hagin son of Benedict.....	131
220. Josce le Jeofne.....	132
221. Benedict of Winchester.....	132
222. Henna AKA Henna Capion.....	134
223. Meir son of Jacob AKA Meirof nephew of Belassez.....	135
224. Samuel son of Maunsell.....	135
225. Henna wife of Jacob of Oxford.....	136
226. Abraham son of Benedict of Winchester	136
227. Bona	137
228. Jurnet son of Abraham	138
229. Moses of Dog Street.....	138
230. Bona	139
231. Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford.....	140

232. Jacob of Bedford AKA Jacob son of Pictavin of Bedford	140
233. Josce Batecock	140
234. Bonefey of Cricklade	141
235. Isaac de Poulet the Younger.....	141
236. Countessa Craue.....	143
237. Jacob of Wycombe.....	143
238. Rebecca	144
239. Aaron of Worcester.....	144
240. Isaac son of Aaron of Worcester.....	144
241. Peter son of Stephen le Convers	145
242. Stephen le Convers	145
243. Belaset of Somerton.....	146
244. Isaac de Poulet the Younger.....	146
245. Josce of Newbury.....	147

Introduction

Jews first settled in medieval England sometime after the Norman Conquest and remained here until they were forced to convert or go into exile by Edward I in 1290. During this time, they and their possessions were considered the property of the king, which allowed him to exploit them economically through heavy taxation but also led royal officials to protect them during outbreaks of anti-Jewish violence.

From 1189, we find evidence of a link between the Tower and England's Jews. This relationship was eventually formalised in the thirteenth century, with the Constable of the Tower having authority over the Jews of London and even the power to arrest Jews anywhere in the kingdom. The Tower became a place both of imprisonment and refuge for London's Jews. In 1267, during a baronial attack upon the city, many Jews hid in the Tower and were even given a section of the wall to defend. Eleven years later, 600 Jews were then held prisoner in the same castle that they had helped to protect.

Below are 236 biographies of every Jewish person or group of Jewish people known to have been at the Tower of London from the community's arrival in England through to the 1290 Expulsion. They range from anonymous refugees hiding out from the anti-Jewish riot at Richard I's coronation in 1189, to Jewish workers at the Tower like the sergeant Jurnet of Abraham or the converted knight Henry of Winchester. Fifty-eight entries are anonymous, and 178 are of named individuals. Most entries are of people from London (37 entries), with Norwich (16) and Oxford (15) the next most common. Thirty-six were women, including Licoricia of Winchester, one of the most prominent female moneylenders in medieval England.

The bulk of the entries, 225 out of 236, are of people imprisoned at the Tower. The most common crime they were accused of was coin-clipping, cutting off the edges of coins to sell or make new ones. This accounts for 33 cases, and a further 110 probable ones. The next most frequent charge was tallage arrears (26 entries). Other, less common charges include murder (8), hiding treasure (4), handling stolen goods (3), and blasphemy (1). Of the remaining 11 entries, 8 are of mostly anonymous sanctuary-seekers, hiding out at the Tower either during an anti-Jewish riot or in fear of one, and the last three entries are of Jewish people working at the Tower, two of whom were converts to Christianity.

This introduction will provide an overview of the status of Jewish people in medieval England, followed by a brief description of the medieval court system which so many of these people passed through. Finally, there is an explanation of the editorial conventions used in compiling these biographies.

Jews in medieval England

Jewish people first came to England in the late eleventh century following the Norman Conquest. The initial community came from Rouen in Normandy. By the end of the following century, communities had been established in most of the major cities and towns of England, with London one of the largest.

Each community, or Jewry, was overseen by the local royal official, normally the sheriff or the constable of the nearby royal castle. Because of the Jews' legal status as the king's property, these officials were responsible for both protecting them from anti-Jewish violence and for exploiting them financially. Jews were barred from most occupations but could lend money at interest to Christians. Many of the wealthier Anglo-Jews made their riches this way and the king, in turn, could then tax this wealth or seize the debts owed to a moneylender for himself. Much of this taxation came in the form of tallages, arbitrary taxation that varied in size and had no regular pattern, being imposed entirely at the king's will. A tallage could be as high as a third of the value of every Jew's moveable goods, as in 1273/74. Those who failed to pay could be imprisoned or exiled. Even if they converted to Christianity, their property was then forfeited to the king. Many of these converts went on to live in the *Domus conversorum* in London, a house founded for the purpose by Henry III in 1232. This exploitation would not end with a Jewish person's death, at which point a third of their estate was supposed to pass to the king.

The king's inheritance of one such vast estate, that of Aaron of Lincoln, and the anti-Jewish massacres of 1190, led to the crown developing a centralised system to administer Jewish moneylending.

By 1194, the *archa* system had been established. Each city or town with an official Jewish settlement had its own charter chest, or *archa*, in which records of debts had to be deposited. This was overseen by four officials called chirographers, two Christian and two Jewish. Each had one of the four keys to the *archa*. At Westminster, the Exchequer of the Jews sat at the top of the *archa* system, carrying out administrative business. Its judges, the Justices of the Jews, heard legal cases between Jewish people or involving Jewish debts. Many of the Jewish prisoners in the Tower had been sentenced there following a trial before these Justices.

Hundreds of Jews also entered the castle as refugees, such as following the anti-Jewish riots that broke out at Richard I's coronation in 1189. The conflict between Henry III and his barons in the 1260s saw multiple attacks upon the London Jewry which led to Jewish refugees arriving at the Tower. In 1264, Simon de Montfort's occupation of London led to many Jews retreating there. In 1267, Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, besieged London because of his dissatisfaction with the peace process that followed de Montfort's defeat in 1265. When de Clare occupied the city on 8 April, the papal legate Ottobuono and many of the city's Jews retreated to the Tower, mindful of the earl's history of anti-Jewish violence, and were given a section of the wall to defend.

The legal system

Medieval English courts used a number of terms and concepts that seem deceptively familiar to us today, like juror, fine, or trespass, but none of which have quite the same meaning and so require some explanation. Medieval jurors were not an impartial panel of one's peers sworn in to hear evidence and deliver a verdict. They were instead sworn to give evidence and deliver a verdict and were typically local people who had a familiarity with the case or with the parties

involved. In the Exchequer of the Jews, juries were usually mixed, half Jewish and half Christian.

Cases were referred to as pleas, with accusers impleading a defendant. A common plea was one of trespass. This did not necessarily mean someone entering another's property without permission, it instead referred to a wrong or crime. The Latin word for trespass, *transgressio*, gives us the word transgression, which is a more appropriate understanding of what medieval courts meant by trespass. The most serious type of offence was a felony, which included crimes such as treason, murder, and rape. Defendants were normally imprisoned pending trial in the case of felonies, but not in the case of trespass. People could be bailed, which was referred to as mainprise. Their bailers, or mainpernors, would be penalised if they failed to ensure the defendant's appearance in court.

As well as financial, custodial, and capital punishments, defendants could also be outlawed or forced to abjure the realm (go into exile abroad). Outlawry meant that a person was placed beyond the protection of the law and it would be illegal for anyone to aid or assist them. Fines were a key part of the process, and not only as punishments. Parties could, among other things, pay a fine to delay a court case, bring one forward, or delay judgement being administered.

England had a series of different courts at local, county, and national level, but the court that the individuals discussed here often had the most contact with was the Exchequer of the Jews. Created in 1194, this court was dedicated to cases and administration involving Jewish people and Jewish moneylending. Even cases solely between Christians but involving a debt originally owed to a Jew could be heard at this court.

Held at Westminster, the Exchequer of the Jews sat in four terms each year. Hilary Term ran from late January into February, Easter Term from two weeks after Easter Sunday until Ascension, Trinity from eight days after Trinity Sunday until late July or early August, and Michaelmas Term, from October to the start of December. The court heard a range of cases, including arguments over debts and property sales, to serious criminal charges of theft, fraud, and even murder. The Exchequer of the Jews also engaged in administrative business regarding Jewish debts. Cases involving Jews were supposed to be heard only at this court, unless the king specified otherwise, but we do sometimes find them appearing in other courts as well.

Money

In medieval England, money was divided into pounds (£), shillings (s), and pence (d). There were 12 pence in every shilling, and 20 shillings in a pound (and therefore 240 pence in a pound). There was also another unit of currency, the mark, worth 13s 4d, that is, two thirds of a pound. Until the mid-thirteenth century, however, only the silver penny existed as a physical coin. To complicate things further, sometimes foreign coins were used in transactions, including Arabic or Greek bezants, obols from Murcia in Muslim Spain, and florins from Florence.

Editorial conventions

Each entry begins with a standardised name, followed by any common variations,¹ the type, i.e. prisoner, refugee, staff, or a combination of these and the date of their stay at the Tower. This is often only a partial date, as we normally only know the date by which they were held, the date they were committed, or the date they were ordered to be released; dates of birth and death usually have usually been lost. When known, they are in the biography. After this comes the biography of the individual, followed by a list of sources used in the biography (prioritising sources in translation where available, to make the resource more accessible), and keywords for the entry, which normally include the type of link to the Tower (prisoner, staff, refugee), their place of residence if known, the crime they were accused of or the other reason for their being at the Tower, and if there is a record of their execution or pardon (though such information only survives for a small amount of entries). These keywords have been placed in capitals, so that they can be isolated by the search function if it is set to case sensitive. Finally, a ‘see also’ section directs the reader to any relevant entries elsewhere in the dataset, normally relatives or other individuals mentioned in the biography.

The biographies themselves are focused primarily on the individual or group’s links with the Tower. For example, the entry for Aaron son of Vives, one of the most prominent 13th century Anglo-Jewish moneylenders, does not provide a blow-by-blow account of his decades of moneylending and the 300-odd references to him in the plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews. Instead, the biography just summarises his moneylending career and instead focuses on his imprisonment at the Tower, the reasons behind it, and what happened to him afterwards.

Entries are arranged chronologically, with those of the same date arranged alphabetically. Over a hundred entries comes from the Tower sergeant’s roll of the late 1270s. This valuable but frustrating document contains hundreds of names of Jews fined by the Tower in that period, usually with tantalisingly brief snippets of information and with very few dates. The manuscript is divided into three sections, the first two covering a period of two years and one year, respectively, and the last beginning in June 1277, but with no recorded end-date. The entries within each section are not dated either. The biographies of these individuals have been arranged in the order in which they appear on the manuscript as that is the closest we can get to a probable chronological order. If there are multiple entries of the same date, then they are arranged alphabetically by first name. If an individual appears twice, then a brief second entry appears below directing them to the first one.

This dataset only includes those figures that were directly recorded as being present at the Tower, whether as prisoners, refugees, staff, or residents. The Tower sergeant’s roll for 1275-80, for example, records many instances of Jews paying for respite of imprisonment. It is

¹ The names of medieval English Jews varied greatly in spelling. Their names were usually Hebrew, but they mostly spoke French as their everyday language. The sources we have were usually written in Latin, by people who did not speak Hebrew, hearing these names in French or Middle English, and then translating them into Latin. This results in often garbled and inconsistent spellings. The Hebrew Yitzchak (Isaac) could be rendered in Latin as Isaac, Hake, Cok, or Cokerel (a pun upon how Yitzchak is derived from the Hebrew for laughter). Moses could also be Mosse, or Mossy. Avigail (Abigail) could become Avegaye. Historians have not agreed upon a single system for standardising these medieval Jewish names, so readers should be prepared to encounter a range of spellings even in modern literature on the medieval Anglo-Jewry.

possible that some of these people paid this before they were actually committed to prison and so may have never set foot in the Tower at all. The plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews often record Jews being imprisoned, but without specifying which one. Other records have shown that this was not always necessarily the Tower. Sometimes a different royal castle was chosen. For example, in the late 1270s, when there was a mass incarceration of England's Jews on charges of coin-clipping, the Tower was so full that many Jews were held in the London Guildhall instead. Deudon Crespin, a Jew from York described as imprisoned in London in January/February 1279, may have been one such person.² Unless another source shows that they did in fact end up at the Tower, such instances have not been included in this dataset so as not to artificially inflate it.

The dates used in the dataset are often imprecise, this is because our sources rarely give a precise date, often using only a law term or a regnal year (which ran from the anniversary of the king's accession to the day before the anniversary). Law term dates, e.g. Hilary Term 1286, are not used. Instead, the months of the relevant law term have been used. Therefore, many regnal dates have been rendered as two years, e.g. 1271/72, and law term dates as a month or pair of months, e.g. January/February for a Hilary Term date.

It is important to note that there are a lot of gaps in our source base. The main sources for a Jewish presence at the Tower in this period are the plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews. Though this court was setup in 1194, the earliest surviving records are from 1219, with the next from 1220, 1244, and 1253, and then we finally get a somewhat consistent survival rate from 1266 onwards, but even then there are gaps, and no full rolls survive for late 1286 to 1290. So the dataset is quite weighted towards the period 1266 to 1286, but that does not necessarily mean that hardly any Jewish people were at the Tower in these earlier periods, we are just limited by the surviving sources.

Bibliography of key sources

Dean, Trevor, *Crime in Medieval Europe* (London, 2001).

Lipman, V. D., *The Jews of Medieval Norwich* (London 1967).

Mundill, Robin R., *The King's Jews: Money, Massacre and Exodus in Medieval England* (London, 2010).

The Palgrave Dictionary of Medieval Anglo-Jewish History, ed. Joe and Caroline Hillaby (London, 2013).

Roth, Cecil, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951).

Skinner, Patricia, *Jews in Medieval Britain: Historical, Literary and Archaeological Perspectives* (Woodbridge, 2003).

² CPREJ, v, no. 948.

Abbreviations

<i>Annales Monastici</i>	<i>Annales Monastici</i> , ed. Henry Richards Luard (R.S.), five volumes (London, 1864-69)
<i>BIJS I</i>	Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Some Accounts of Condemned Jews' Property in the Pipe and Chancellor's Rolls', <i>Bulletin of the Institute of Jewish Studies</i> , i (1973), pp. 19-42
<i>BIJS III</i>	Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Some Accounts of Condemned Jews' Property in the Pipe and Chancellor's Rolls (concluded)', <i>Bulletin of the Institute of Jewish Studies</i> , iii (1975), pp. 41-67
<i>CChR</i>	<i>Calendar of the Charter Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , 6 vols (London, 1903-27)
<i>CCR</i>	<i>Calendar of the Close Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , 47 vols (London, 1892-1963)
<i>CFR</i>	<i>Calendar of the Fine Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , 22 vols (London, 1911-1962)
<i>Chronica Majora</i>	<i>Chronica Majora</i> , ed. Henry Richards Luard (R. S.), 7 volumes (London, 1872-83)
<i>Chronicles of the Mayors</i>	<i>Chronicles of the Mayors and Sheriffs of London. The French Chronicle of London</i> , ed. and trans. Henry Thomas Riley (London, 1863)
<i>CLR</i>	<i>Calendar of the Liberate Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , 6 vols (London, 1916-64)
<i>Conversion</i>	Robert C. Stacey, 'The Conversion of Jews to Christianity in Thirteenth-Century England', <i>Speculum</i> , 67:2 (Apr., 1992), pp. 263-83
<i>CPR</i>	<i>Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , 66 vols (London, 1891-1986)
<i>CPREJ</i>	<i>Calendar of the Plea Rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews</i> , 6 vols (London, 1905-2006)
<i>Crime and the Jews</i>	Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Crime and Jews in Late Thirteenth-Century England: Some Cases and Comments', <i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i> , 55 (1984), pp. 95-157
<i>FRP</i>	<i>Henry III Fine Rolls Project</i> https://finerollshenry3.org.uk/
<i>Hillaby and Hillaby</i>	<i>The Palgrave Dictionary of Medieval Anglo-Jewish History</i> , ed. Joe and Caroline Hillaby (London, 2013)

<i>King's Jews</i>	Robin R. Mundill, <i>The King's Jews: Money, Massacre and Exodus in Medieval England</i> (London, 2010)
<i>Money and the Hangman II</i>	Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Money and the hangman in late-13 th -century England: Jews, Christians and coinage offences alleged and real (Part II)', <i>Jewish Historical Studies</i> , 32 (1990-92), pp. 159-218
<i>Select Pleas</i>	<i>Select Pleas, Starrs, and Other Records from the Rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews, A. D. 1220-1284</i> , ed. J. M. Rigg (London, 1902)

Glossary

<i>Abjure</i>	To leave somewhere, swearing to never return
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	A charter recording a debt
<i>Apostasy</i>	Abandoning a religion
<i>Archa</i>	The charter chest in a town with a Jewish settlement in which records of debts were kept
<i>Amercement</i>	A penalty to be paid by someone who had committed an offence
<i>Attorney</i>	Someone representing another individual in court, not necessarily a lawyer or person with legal training
<i>Bond</i>	A charter recording a debt
<i>Charter</i>	A legal document, e.g. sale, purchase, a land deed
<i>Chirograph</i>	A charter with multiple copies of the same document with the word 'chirographum' or a wavy line across it. The copies were cut up along this line. If they needed to be verified, they could be brought together to see if they fitted along the cut.
<i>Chirographer</i>	One of the four officials (two Christian, two Jewish) responsible for each <i>archa</i>
<i>Coin-clipping</i>	Cutting the edges off coins to sell the precious metals or make new coins
<i>Condemned</i>	Convicted of a crime
<i>Distrain</i>	Seizing goods or lands in order to compel someone to obey a court order
<i>Essoin</i>	An excuse for not appearing in court
<i>Eyre</i>	A circuit court that travelled about the country to hear cases

<i>Felony</i>	Treason or other serious crime
<i>Fine</i>	A payment, not necessarily as punishment, e.g. fines could be paid to bring a court date forward or delay it
<i>Gates</i>	Permission to move around a prison precinct during the day
<i>In mercy</i>	When someone has had a judgement made against them by the court, and is therefore subject to a penalty of some kind
<i>Inquisition</i>	An investigation or inquiry
<i>Juror</i>	A panel, normally of 12 free men with a knowledge of either the case or the parties involved, who were sworn to present evidence
<i>Mainprise</i>	To release someone on bail
<i>Mainpernor</i>	A guarantor for someone being mainprised
<i>Messuage</i>	A house, normally with a small vegetable garden called a curtilage
<i>Plea</i>	Presenting a case in court
<i>Pledge</i>	A person or thing used as a guarantee, e.g. items were often given to a lender as a pledge that a debt would be repaid
<i>Purpresture</i>	Illegally encroaching upon land, e.g. by building on a public highway
<i>Starr</i>	A Jewish charter
<i>Surety</i>	A person pledged as a guarantee, often as an assurance that someone would appear in court
<i>Tallage</i>	A tax, in this case often levied on England's Jews and based on an assessment of the community's combined wealth
<i>Tally</i>	A stick that was marked with notches to record a payment
<i>Trespass</i>	A wrong or crime. Less serious than a felony
<i>Writ</i>	A written order by an authority, e.g. the king or a court

1. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: From 3 September 1189

Biography: Many Jews were present in London for Richard I's coronation at Westminster on 3 September 1189. But the crowds outside, possibly encouraged by the doorkeeper, turned on the Jews, accusing them of the 'evil eye' and calling for them to be banned from attending. This soon broke out into a riot, with many Jews killed and the London Jewry burnt. An unknown number of Jews fled to the Tower. Roger of Howden's *Gesta Regis Henrici Secundi* claims that only those in the Tower or who hid in the houses of friends survived. Violence soon broke out elsewhere in England, followed by more attacks in Spring 1190, including the notorious slaughter of the York Jewry at Clifford's Tower.

Sources: *The Chronicle of the Reigns of Henry II and Richard I*, ed. William Stubbs, 2 vols (London, R.S., 1867), ii, p. 84; *King's Jews*, pp. 75-81.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CORONATION; GROUP; RIOT; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220 (3); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236 (25); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267 (65)

2. Isaac of Norwich

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1213-c. 1217

Biography: The son of Jurnet of Norwich and his wife Muriel, Isaac of Norwich was born c. 1170. He was one of the leading members of the Norwich Jewry and followed his father into the moneylending business. In 1199, two years after inheriting his late father's estate, Isaac's wealth accounted for more than ten per cent of the taxable wealth of the entire English Jewry. He also continued his father's tradition of patronising rabbinic scholarship and may have participated in commercial trade.

In April 1210, Isaac was imprisoned at Bristol, along with many other Jews, on the orders of King John. Their debts and tallies were recorded to determine their wealth for a tallage that was imposed upon them in November. Many Jews died in prison, were tortured, or fled the kingdom. Isaac was transferred to the Tower in 1213 and was saved from execution by agreeing to a fine of 10,000 marks (£6,666 13s 4d), to be paid at the rate of one mark per day. He died in 1235/36. His grandson, also called Isaac of Norwich, was held at the Tower in 1253.

A caricature of Isaac, his agent Moses Mokke, and a certain Abigail, drawn on a tallage roll in 1233, depicts the three Jews in a castle filled with demons. This castle may be intended to represent the Tower, where both Isaac and Moses had been imprisoned.

Sources: Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 22-23, 286-88; *Select Pleas*, pp. 3-4; London, TNA, E 401/1565; Robert Stacey, ‘Norwich, Isaac of’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, rev. ed. 2008), doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/37588 [accessed 9 August 2021]

Keywords: MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Isaac of Norwich, convert, son of Moses (51); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21)

3. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: May 1220

Biography: The *Annals of Dunstable* record that, during Henry III’s second coronation in May 1220, London’s Jews were guarded in the Tower for their own safety, probably due to the riot that followed Richard I’s coronation in 1189. Interestingly, there is no record of such a precaution being taken during John’s coronation in 1199, or of any riots during it, suggesting how strongly the memory of the massacres of 1189 lingered.

Sources: *Annales Monastici*, iii, p. 57.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CORONATION; GROUP; PRECAUTIONARY; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189 (1); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236 (25); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267 (65)

4. Moses son of Brun

Type: Prisoner

Date: From June 1220 to c. 1221

Biography: Moses was a moneylender from London. In January/February 1220, Moses had to find pledges to guarantee his appearance before the Exchequer of the Jews in June later that year. When he attended court, it was to answer the plea of Richard, prior of Dunstable, who accused Moses of making a fake charter showing the priory owed him £24. The charter was between Moses’ father Brun and an earlier prior, Thomas, and was dated to 1190. Richard said that Thomas was an excellent clerk and would never make a charter with bad Latin like this one. One of the seals on the charter was that of the priory, but this was kept locked away by five keys. He also said that all of the priory’s charters were written by one of its canons. He presented one canon who had written all of the priory’s charters for the past forty years and who said that Moses’ charter was not in his handwriting. The prior pointed out that the document had been washed, whitened with white chalk still visible in the folds, and the writing had been blackened with grease, all to make the charter look older than it was. Finally, Richard

said that the charter must be a fake because the other seal on the document was his own, not that of Prior Thomas, yet the charter was supposedly from 1190, while Richard only became prior in 1202. He said that Moses must have acquired the two seals from one of the priory's tenants in Berkhamsted. Richard had given a charter to this tenant confirming his tenure of priory lands, sealing it with his own seal and the seal of the priory. The tenant, who owed Moses 5s, gave him the charter and a surcoat as a pledge, but when he did repay his debt, Moses kept the charter and used its seals for the forgery.

Moses denied the charges. He said that his father, who was once rich, had lost several charters. When licence was given to enrol all concealed charters, Brun bought this one from a certain servant. Moses said he did not know of any fraud in the document. When asked if he could produce the servant to testify in his defence, Moses said that he did not know who the servant was. He was sent to the Tower pending judgement.

The *Annals of Dunstable*, the chronicle of Dunstable Priory, claims that Moses was then held at the Tower for over a year because the Jewish community gave the king a gold mark to defer judgement. Later, they gave him a further £100 so that he would not be hanged. Instead, Moses was allowed to abjure the realm (go into exile) and was outlawed. The Dunstable chronicler, as well as inflating the figure of £24 to £700, was angry that the king excused Moses from execution, which he wrote was a 'disgrace' of the king's own law. A receipt roll of 1221 records the payment of the £100, as well as an aid for the marriage of the king's sister. A total of £654 3s 5½d was paid by over 300 Jews from across England. That the community was willing to pay for Moses' life, even when the cost was divided amongst so many people, suggests he was a well-connected and important figure.

Sources: *Annales Monastici*, iii, p. 66; Helena M. Chew, 'A Jewish Aid to Marry, A.D. 1221', *Transactions (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 11 (1924-1927), pp. 92-111; *CPREJ*, i, p. 30; *King's Jews*, p. 149; *Select Pleas*, pp. 4-5.

Keywords: ABJURED; FRAUD; MALE; OUTLAW; PRISONER

5. Bonamy Mutun AKA Boneme Mutun

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 15 January 1225

Biography: Bonamy was imprisoned in the Tower of London for an unknown crime by 1225. On 15 January that year, the king ordered his release to the London Jewish community, who had paid 100 marks to have him bailed. They were bound to bring him before the king again whenever the king wished. He was probably a Londoner, he certainly owned property in the city, some of which he granted to Semayne the crossbowman by December 1227. He had lands and rents in Ironmonger Lane, Bassishaw, and Coleman Street. He also witnessed a c. 1230 charter of a grant of land in St Mary Colechurch, London.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 22, no. 59, Roll 27, no. 42; John Watney, *Some account of the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, in the Cheap, London, and of the plate of the Mercers' Company* (London, 1892), pp. 255, 256.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; MALE; LONDON; PRISONER

6. Philip le Convers

Type: Staff

Date: 1225 to 1237

Biography: Philip was a convert from Judaism. He worked as a crossbowman at the Tower of London from 1225 to 1237 and was paid 7½d a day, but this was often in arrears and was cut to 4½d a day by 1234. He was variously described as king's serjeant and king's crossbowman. In 1228, the king ordered that Philip and the other crossbowmen were to have their surcoats and tunics lined with lambswool. His pre-conversion identity is unknown.

Sources: *CCR*, 1234-37, pp. 265, 425; *CLR*, 1226-40, pp. 15, 25, 32, 39, 43-44, 67, 80-81, 93, 111, 130, 147, 170, 182, 184, 190, 203; *Rotuli litterarum clausarum in Turri Londinensi asservati. Volume 2. 1224-1227*, ed. Thomas Duffus Hardy (London, 1844), p. 88b.

Keywords: CONVERT; MALE; STAFF

7. Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Vives, his wife Bella, Isaac and his wife Anna, Abigail the Jew, and Aaron were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Bella (8); Isaac (9); Anna (10); Abigail the Jew (11); Aaron (12)

8. Bella

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Bella, her husband Vives, Isaac and his wife Anna, Abigail the Jew, and Aaron were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Vives (7); Isaac (9); Anna (10); Abigail the Jew (11); Aaron (12)

9. Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Isaac, his wife Anna, Vives and his wife Bella, Abigail the Jew, and Aaron were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Vives (7); Bella (8); Anna (10); Abigail the Jew (11); Aaron (12)

10. Anna

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Anna, her husband Isaac, Vives and his wife Bella, Abigail the Jew, and Aaron were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Vives (7); Bella (8); Isaac (9); Abigail the Jew (11); Aaron (12)

11. Abigail the Jew

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Abigail, Isaac and his wife Anna, Vives and his wife Bella, and Aaron were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Vives (7); Bella (8); Isaac (9); Anna (10); Aaron (12)

12. Aaron

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1230

Biography: Aaron, Isaac and his wife Anna, Vives and his wife Bella, and Abigail the Jew were all arrested on charges of coin-clipping and stealing clothes. In March 1230, they were sent by the sheriff of Shropshire to the Tower of London, and the Constable was ordered to hold them there until the justiciar Stephen de Sedgrave visited London to hear the case.

Sources: *CCR*, 1227-31, p. 304.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; SHROPSHIRE; THEFT

See also: Vives (7); Bella (8); Isaac (9); Anna (10); Abigail the Jew (11)

13. Benedict son of Abigail

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Benedict was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. A 1234 inquest heard the plea of Benedict, a physician, that on 31 August 1230, his son Odard, a five-year-old boy, was playing on a street in Norwich. Jacob of Norwich, a Jew, took Odard to his house, circumcised him, and named him Jurnepin. Jacob then kept the boy there for a day and a night until Benedict, informed by the Jew's neighbours, came looking for his son. He took Odard before the coroners and the representative of the archdeacon of Norwich, who testified that the boy was indeed circumcised, and his penis was large and very swollen. Benedict accused Leo son of Margaret,

Senioret son of Josce, Deudone, Joppe son of Chera, Elias son of Vives, Moses son of Solomon, Simon Cok son of Sarah, Sampson son of Ursel, Benedict son of Abigail, Moses son of Abraham, Isaac Parvus, and Dyay the Cat of helping Jacob. All of them, except for Deudone, Joppe, Benedict, one of the Moses (it is not clear which), and Isaac, came to court and denied the charges.

Odard, then nine-years-old, was brought before the court and said that the Jews took him to Jacob's house, where they held him and covered his eyes while they circumcised him with a little knife. They put his foreskin in a fur-lined basin and then they all searched for it with little sticks until one Jew, Jurnepin, found it. As he had found it first, Odard was renamed after him. The archdeacon's official then testified, bringing many priests with him. They all said that Odard was indeed circumcised in this manner and that when they saw his penis, it was large, very swollen, and bloody.

A jury was summoned in September/October 1234. The jurors testified that Odard had been found after his circumcision by Matilda of Bernham and her daughter. The boy was sitting by the riverbank in Norwich and crying that he was a Jew. She took him back to her house but the next morning the Jews came and tried to take Odard back, calling him Jurnepin. Matilda's Christian neighbours arrived and the Jews left, warning her not to feed the boy pork, as he was a Jew. Matilda came and agreed with this story, adding that she had invited Benedict to come to her home. He hid in the bedroom when the Jews arrived and when he heard them call his son Jurnepin, he burst out and asked the boy what he was called. He replied 'A Jew called Jurnepin' but, upon seeing his father, said that he was his son Odard. This account clashes with Benedict's original claim that he took Odard back from Jacob of Norwich's house.

The jurors said that all the accused Jews were guilty of participating in the circumcision, except for Moses son of Solomon. The Constable of Norwich Castle at the time, Richard of Fressingfield, testified that the Jews came to him at the castle and said that the Christians were trying to steal 'their Jew' from them. He accompanied them to Matilda's house, finding a large crowd of Christians and Jews there. The Jews again explained that the Christians were attempting to steal one of their number, while Benedict claimed that Odard was his son. Richard saw that Odard had indeed been circumcised and was swollen and bleeding. The Christians then took the boy. The then bailiffs of Norwich came and agreed with Richard's testimony.

Sometime between 22 and 27 November 1234, the accused Jews, then imprisoned, approached the king and offered him 100 marks to be put the judgement against them on hold. The charges were serious (Jews were explicitly banned from attempting to convert Christians) and could have resulted in execution. The accused were instead to be brought to London and handed over to the Constable of the Tower.

Before the king, the archbishop of Canterbury, and many bishops, earls, and barons, it was decided that the case should be passed to the ecclesiastical courts, as the secular courts had never dealt with such a case before. The church court would investigate and report to the king, who would decide what action to take. The accused Jews paid 1 mark to the king so that Odard could be viewed independently to see if he was circumcised. He was seen and the skin on his penis ended before the head.

Moses Mokke, Jacob son of Vives, Sampson Blund, Elias son of Vives, Dyay son of Sampson, Leo, Simon of Norwich, Isaac the Little, Senioret, and Jacob son of Senioret eventually made another fine with the king of 300 marks so that the case could be tried. In November 1235, in return for a further fine of 50 marks, they were released on bail.

In 1240, the trial had apparently yet to happen, and the accused were still held in prison, though it is not clear if this was still the Tower. Some of the accused requested a trial by a mixed jury of Jews and Christians. The king agreed, ordering such a trial in January 1240, but the following month he changed his mind and commanded the local authorities to deal with the matter. They were finally put on trial soon after and by 1241 at least one of the accused, Moses Mokke, had been executed. It is not known what happened to Benedict but he was likely executed or died in prison.

What really happened in this complex case is uncertain. It is unlikely that the boy was part of a Jewish family that had converted to Christianity and the community was ‘reclaiming’ him, as has been suggested by Walter Rye and Vivian Lipman. As Adrienne Williams Boyarin notes, the documents make no mention of a conversion and why would the Jews ask for help from the constable if they had kidnapped and assaulted a child? Benedict and Matilda’s stories contradict each other and the constable’s testimony suggests that the Jews genuinely believed Odard/Jurnepin was one of them. It is possible that the boy was indeed a Jew, and that Matilda and then Benedict had effectively abducted him.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

14. Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Dyay was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. Dyay had been executed by 1241 for his part in the supposed event.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; EXECUTED; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

15. Elias son of Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Elias was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. It is not known what happened to Elias but he was likely executed or died in prison.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

16. Isaac the Little AKA Isaac son of Solomon

Type: Prisoner

Date: By August 1234; from November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Isaac was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. He was initially held in the Tower until August 1234, when the king ordered his transfer to Norwich Castle. But that autumn, all of the accused were transferred to the Tower, presumably including Isaac. By 1241, he had been executed for his part in the supposed event.

In July 1241, Isaac's house in Norwich, which was forfeited to the king upon his execution, had been granted to William of Melleford, chamberlain of the king's wardrobe, who in turn granted it to Isaac of Warwick in 1244.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1231-34, p. 502, 1234-37, p. 17, 1237-42, p. 314; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4; London, TNA, E 401/1565.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; EXECUTED; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

17. Jacob son of Senioret

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Jacob was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. In 1241, a roll listing debts held in the Norwich *archa* recorded that those belonging to Jacob were now held by the king, as he was either a fugitive or had been convicted. It is not known precisely what happened to him.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4; V. D. Lipman, *The Jews of Medieval Norwich* (London 1967), p. 261.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

18. Jacob son of Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Jacob was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. It is not known what happened to Jacob but he was likely executed or died in prison.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

19. Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Joppe was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. It is not known what happened to Joppe but he was likely executed or died in prison.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

20. Leo son of Margaret

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Leo was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. It is not known what happened to Leo but he was likely executed or died in prison.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

21. Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Moses was an agent of Isaac of Norwich, a wealthy moneylender. A caricature of Moses, Isaac, and a certain Abigail, drawn on a tallage roll in 1233, depicts the three Jews in a castle filled with demons. This castle may be intended to represent the Tower, where both Isaac and Moses had been imprisoned.

Moses was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. By 1241, he had been executed for his part in the supposed event.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4; London, TNA, E 401/1565; *King's Jews*, p. 70.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; EXECUTED; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17);

Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Sampson Blund (22); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

22. Sampson Blund AKA Sampson son of Ursel

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Sampson was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. It is not known what happened to Sampson but he was likely executed or died in prison.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Senioret (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich (23); Simon of Norwich (24)

23. Senioret son of Josce AKA Senioret of Norwich

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Senioret was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. Senioret was initially outlawed for his part in the supposed circumcision by February 1231, when his property was given to Benedict as compensation, but he appears to have been captured and imprisoned by 1235. That November, he, Moses Mokke, Jacob son of Vives, Sampson Blund, Elias son of Vives, Dyay son of Sampson, Leo, Simon of Norwich, Isaac the Little, and Jacob son of Senioret made a fine with the king of 300 marks so that the case could be tried. In return for a further fine of 50 marks, they were released on bail. In 1241, a roll listing debts held in the Norwich *archa* recorded that those belonging to Senioret were now held by the king, as he was a fugitive.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4; V. D. Lipman, *The Jews of Medieval Norwich* (London 1967), pp. 61-62, 261.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Seniorete (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Simon of Norwich (24)

24. Simon of Norwich AKA Simon Cok son of Sarah

Type: Prisoner

Date: From November 1234 to November 1235, possibly until 1241

Biography: Simon was one of several Jews from Norwich accused of circumcising a Christian boy and attempting to convert him to Judaism. For the details of this case, see No. 13 above. By 1241, he had been executed for his part in the supposed event.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 20-27, 231-27; *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 17; *FRP*, Roll 34, no. 38, Roll 35, no. 4.

Keywords: ASSAULT; FORCED CIRCUMCISION; EXECUTED; KIDNAPPING; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Abigail (13); Dyay son of Sampson AKA Dyay the Cat (14); Elias son of Vives (15); Isaac the little AKA Isaac son of Solomon (16); Jacob son of Seniorete (17); Jacob son of Vives (18); Joppe son of Elias AKA Joppe son of Chera (19); Leo son of Margaret (20); Moses Mokke AKA Moses son of Abraham (21); Sampson Blund (22); Seniorete son of Josce AKA Seniorete of Norwich (23)

25. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: January 1236

Biography: In January 1236, Henry III ordered the Constable of the Tower of London to receive the city's Jews and their chattels there, to protect them during the coronation of Henry's queen, Eleanor of Provence, on 20 January. He probably had the riot that followed Richard I's coronation in 1189 in mind. The Jews had been similarly guarded in the Tower at Henry's

second coronation in 1220. Interestingly, there is no record of such a precaution being taken during John's coronation in 1199, or of any riots following it, suggesting how strongly the memory of the massacres of 1189 lingered.

Sources: *CCR*, 1234-37, p. 334.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CORONATION; GROUP; PRECAUTIONARY; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189 (1); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220 (3); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267 (65)

26. Bonefey of Bristol

Type: Prisoner

Date: By July/August 1237

Biography: In July or August 1237, the Constable of the Tower was ordered that if Elias son of Chera of Winchester, Lombard and Bonefey, Jews of Bristol, Isaac Pikethein, and Solomon of Ilchester, imprisoned for failing to pay their tallage, could offer surety for paying 100 marks within 15 days after St Laurence and another 200 at Michaelmas, then they may be released from prison.

Bonefey later attempted to evade the 1241-42 tallage as well. He was at first imprisoned and his goods and debts seized. His house was sold for £21 13s 4d as well as a yearly rent for the house, a garden, and a bridge of 27s. Bonefey was later recorded as having fled from the tallage. It is not known what happened to him.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 4E, no. 206; Robert C. Stacey, 'Royal Taxation and the Social Structure of Medieval Anglo-Jewry: The Tallages of 1239-1242', *Hebrew Union College Annual*, 56 (1985), pp. 175-249, at 223.

Keywords: MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol (27); Isaac Pikethein (28); Lombard of Bristol (29); Solomon of Ilchester (30)

27. Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol

Type: Prisoner

Date: By July/August 1237

Biography: Elias was a moneylender with links to Bristol and Winchester. His mother, Chera, was also a moneylender. She had died by 1244, when Elias had to defend his right to debts he had inherited from her. In July or August 1237, the Constable of the Tower was ordered that if

Elias son of Chera of Winchester, Lombard, and Bonefey, Jews of Bristol, Isaac Pikethein, and Solomon of Ilchester, imprisoned for failing to pay their tallage, could offer surety for paying 100 marks within 15 days after St Laurence and another 200 at Michaelmas, then they may be released from prison. He was married to Floria and had a son called Abraham. He was dead by 1275, when Floria was described as his widow in an acknowledgement she made quitting certain debtors of what they owed her and her late husband.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 77, 80, 84, 97, 102, 110, 116, 118, 119, 251, ii, p. 282, iv, p. 25; *FRP*, Roll 4E, no. 206; *Select Pleas*, p. 13.

Keywords: BRISTOL; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS; WINCHESTER

See also: Bonefey of Bristol (26); Isaac Pikethein (28); Lombard of Bristol (29); Solomon of Ilchester (30)

28. Isaac Pikethein

Type: Prisoner

Date: By July/August 1237

Biography: In July or August 1237, the Constable of the Tower was ordered that if Elias son of Chera of Winchester, Lombard and Bonefey, Jews of Bristol, Isaac Pikethein, and Solomon of Ilchester, imprisoned for failing to pay their tallage, could offer surety for paying 100 marks within 15 days after St Laurence and another 200 at Michaelmas, then they may be released from prison.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 4E, no. 206.

Keywords: MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Bonefey of Bristol (26); Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol (27); Lombard of Bristol (29); Solomon of Ilchester (30)

29. Lombard of Bristol

Type: Prisoner

Date: By July/August 1237

Biography: In July or August 1237, the Constable of the Tower was ordered that if Elias son of Chera of Winchester, Lombard, and Bonefey, Jews of Bristol, Isaac Pikethein, and Solomon of Ilchester, imprisoned for failing to pay their tallage, could offer surety for paying 100 marks within 15 days after St Laurence and another 200 at Michaelmas, then they may be released from prison. The authorities sometimes confused Lombard with Lombard of Cricklade, an Oxford Jew, who was imprisoned in 1252 instead of Lombard of Bristol.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 4E, no. 206; Robin R. Mundill, 'Lombard and Son: The Business and Debtors of Two Jewish Moneylenders in Late Thirteenth-Century England', *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, 82:1-2 (Jul.-Oct., 1991), pp. 137-70, at 140.

Keywords: BRISTOL; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Bonefey of Bristol (26); Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol (27); Isaac Pikethein (28); Solomon of Ilchester (30)

30. Solomon of Ilchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: By July/August 1237

Biography: In July or August 1237, the Constable of the Tower was ordered that if Elias son of Chera of Winchester, Lombard and Bonefey, Jews of Bristol, Isaac Pikethein, and Solomon of Ilchester, imprisoned for failing to pay their tallage, could offer surety for paying 100 marks within 15 days after St Laurence and another 200 at Michaelmas, then they may be released from prison. He was still alive in 1244, when he was sued by Richard FitzBernard for unlawful demand of debt.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 64; *FRP*, Roll 4E, no. 206.

Keywords: ILCHESTER; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Bonefey of Bristol (26); Elias son of Chera of Winchester, of Bristol (27); Isaac Pikethein (28); Lombard of Bristol (29)

31. Leo Blund of Milk Street

Type: Prisoner

Date: By November 1239

Biography: Leo was the eldest son of Elias Blund (d. 1264) and his wife Flora. The Blunds were a leading family in the London Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth.

By November 1239, Leo was being held in the Tower of London. The king ordered that he could be released if he could find suitable pledges. The order does not specify why Leo was imprisoned, but it was probably due to the 1239 tallage of the Jews. Matthew Paris claims that on 20 June 1239, many Jews were imprisoned to force them to pay. Leo may have been one of these prisoners.

In 1241, Leo was part of the London deputation to the Worcester 'parliament' of Jews. Leo lived in Milk Street, London. His house there was worth £2 in 1226 and £3 6s 8d in 1249. He

was married to Genta. He had died by 1259, when his son Aaron paid a fine for the property of his late father, probably in order to receive his inheritance. Leo's brother Moses was also imprisoned at the Tower, while his father Elias was both a prisoner and a refugee there.

Sources: *CCR*, 1237-42, p. 152; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 107, 109, 118-119; Robert Stacey, 'Royal Taxation and the Social Structure of Medieval Anglo-Jewry: The Tallages of 1239-1242', *Hebrew Union College Annual*, 56 (1985), pp. 175-249.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Aaron I Blund (47); Elias Blund (48); Floria Blund (59); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49); Wife of Samuel Blund (50)

32. Samaritanus

Type: Prisoner

Date: After February 1241

Biography: Samaritanus was the son of Lombard of Winchester. He and his wife were arrested and imprisoned as fugitives by the bailiffs of the bishop of Bath and Wells. In February 1241, the king ordered the sheriff of Somerset to have the couple brought to the Tower of London to be delivered to the Constable. By November that year, Samaritanus, at least, was found guilty and some of his property was forfeited to the crown. Two of his messuages in Winchester were granted to Master Richard, the king's cook. The larger messuage was in Yernestreet, running eastward to Alewernstreet. The other was in the 'graveyard of St Swithun', probably that of St Swithun's Priory.

He was still alive in December 1249, when the king ordered him to repay 20s a year of the 200 marks he owed him. This debt, perhaps tallage arrears, may have been what resulted in Samaritanus and his wife's arrest in 1241. He had at least one son, Bonamy, who was prosecuted in the Exchequer of the Jews in 1253 for failing to return a Hebrew book worth 20s to Cockerel son of Licoricia. Samaritanus may have been dead by 1273, when houses once belonging to him were described as 'late of Samaritanus, Jew, late of Winchester'.

Sources: *CChR*, 1226-57, p. 264; *CLR*, 1240-45, p. 33; *CPREJ*, i, p. 120, ii, p. 13; *FRP*, Roll 47, no. 104.

Keywords: MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS?; WINCHESTER

See also: Wife of Samaritanus (33)

33. Wife of Samaritanus

Type: Prisoner

Date: After February 1241

Biography: By February 1241, Samarianus and his wife had been arrested and imprisoned as fugitives by the bailiffs of the bishop of Bath and Wells. His wife's name does not survive. In February 1241, the king ordered the sheriff of Somerset to have the couple brought to the Tower of London to be delivered to the Constable. He was still alive in December 1249, when the king ordered him to repay 20s a year of the 200 marks he owed him. This debt, perhaps tallage arrears, may have been what resulted in Samarianus and his wife's arrest in 1241. She does not reappear in the record. She was probably the mother of Samarianus' son Bonamy, who was prosecuted in the Exchequer of the Jews in 1253 for failing to return a Hebrew book worth 20s to Cockerel son of Licoricia. Samarianus may have been dead by 1273, when the houses once belonging to him were described as 'late of Samarianus, Jew, late of Winchester'.

Sources: *CLR*, 1240-45, p. 33; *CPREJ*, i, p. 120, ii, p. 13; *FRP*, Roll 47, no. 104.

Keywords: FEMALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS?; WINCHESTER

See also: Samarianus (32)

34. Bescota

Type: Prisoner

Date: By May 1241

Biography: In May 1241, the Constable of the Tower was ordered to transfer Pimenta wife of Jacob of Coutances, Jacob son of Jacob, and Bescota wife of Jacob, Jews of Bristol, from the Tower to Bristol to stand trial, according to the custom of that borough. They were to be handed over to the constable of Bristol Castle. The group had been accused of killing Alice daughter of Eve. Her husband, Jacob son of Jacob, was probably the son of Jacob of Coutances and his wife Pimenta.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'The Jews of Bristol in pre-Expulsion Days', *Transactions (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 12 (1928-31), pp. 117-86, at 153; *CCR*, 1237-42, p. 357.

Keywords: BRISTOL; FEMALE; MURDER; PRISONER

See also: Jacob son of Jacob (35); Pimenta (36)

35. Jacob son of Jacob

Type: Prisoner

Date: By May 1241

Biography: In May 1241, the Constable of the Tower was ordered to transfer Pimenta wife of Jacob of Coutances, Jacob son of Jacob, and Bescota wife of Jacob, Jews of Bristol, from the

Tower to Bristol to stand trial, according to the custom of that borough. They were to be handed over to the constable of Bristol Castle. The group had been accused of killing Alice daughter of Eve.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'The Jews of Bristol in pre-Expulsion Days', *Transactions (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 12 (1928-31), pp. 117-86, at 153; *CCR*, 1237-42, p. 357.

Keywords: BRISTOL; MALE; MURDER; PRISONER

See also: Bescota (34); Pimenta (36)

36. Pimenta

Type: Prisoner

Date: By May 1241

Biography: In May 1241, the Constable of the Tower was ordered to transfer Pimenta wife of Jacob of Coutances, Jacob son of Jacob, and Bescota wife of Jacob, Jews of Bristol, from the Tower to Bristol to stand trial, according to the custom of that borough. They were to be handed over to the constable of Bristol Castle. The group had been accused of killing Alice daughter of Eve. Pimenta and Jacob of Coutances had two children, Jacob (presumably the Jacob son of Jacob imprisoned with Pimenta) and Isaac, who became a moneylender. Jacob of Coutances was a Norman Jew, and Pimenta may have been as well. He was later accused of coin-clipping and was arrested for staying in Surrey without royal permission.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'The Jews of Bristol in pre-Expulsion Days', *Transactions (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 12 (1928-31), pp. 117-86, at 153; *CCR*, 1237-42, p. 357.

Keywords: BRISTOL; FEMALE; MURDER; PRISONER

See also: Bescota (34); Jacob son of Jacob (35)

37. Solomon l'Eveske

Type: Prisoner

Date: By September 1242

Biography: As a l'Eveske, Solomon was part of one of the leading Anglo-Jewish families. His brother, Elias l'Eveske, was archpresbyter of the Jews, the crown-appointed community leader, from 1243 to 1257. Together with Elias and their other brother Jacob, the three were moneylenders and financiers to Henry III and his court. They also worked to buy gold for the king. Solomon was married to Floria Blund, a member of another important London Jewish family.

Solomon had been imprisoned in the Tower by 4 September 1242, when the king ordered that he be released. He had paid 10 marks and given security for a further 15 marks of the 100-mark fine that he and Aaron Blund, Jew of London, had made with the king for an unspecified transgression. Solomon was then to be delivered from his prison in the Tower.

Elias l'Eveske was accused of corruption in office in 1249 and 1252 but survived each time. In 1257, however, he was found guilty of selling certain debts to Richard earl of Cornwall but continuing to collect the payments for himself. Elias was removed from office and his rivals, Hagin and Cresse, sons of Master Moses of London, paid the king three gold marks on behalf of the Jews of England to never again let Elias be archpresbyter. The following year, Elias was accused of hiring an assassin to kill Hagin, who had been wounded but survived the attack. To escape execution, Elias and his two sons converted to Christianity. Their goods were therefore forfeit to the crown and were sold to Elias Menahem, brother of Cresse and Hagin. The downfall of Elias l'Eveske was soon followed by that of Solomon, who abjured the realm for an unspecified crime, leaving his wife Floria imprisoned in England.

On 22 September, Henry III, at the instance of his wife the queen, Eleanor of Provence, and Marie de Seningham, ordered the Constable of the Tower to release Floria from prison on bail, if she could find twelve Jews or Christians to act as her mainpernors. The order said that her husband had abjured the realm for a certain felony. Floria was presumably accused of complicity. Solomon had probably fled by October 1259, when his chattels were delivered into the Wardrobe by several royal officials including the Constable. His goods included 85 marks 40d of gold. 24½ marks of this was in bezants (a gold coin from the Eastern Mediterranean, usually Byzantine), 31 marks in obols of Murcia (coins from Muslim Spain), 3½ marks in other coins and ingots, and 26 marks 40d in gold leaf. The amount of gold, much of it from abroad, suggests that he was still acting as a gold-buyer for the crown.

Solomon returned to England in 1261, where he worked to serve Henry III's queen, Eleanor of Provence. He had died by November 1265, possibly killed in the Montfortian attack upon the London Jewry in 1264. His widow Floria later married Benedict of Winchester and died in 1275.

Sources: Reva Berman Brown and Sean McCartney, 'David of Oxford and Licoricia of Winchester: glimpses into a Jewish family in thirteenth-century England', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 39 (2004), pp. 1-34, at 22; *CCR*, 1237-42, pp. 465-66, 1259-61, p. 119; *CPR*, 1258-66, p. 48; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 242-46; Robert Stacey, 'Eveske, Elias l'', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, rev. ed. 2008), doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/52245 [accessed 20 September 2021]

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Floria Blund (59)

38. Manasser son of Ursel

Type: Prisoner

Date: After 10 May 1243

Biography: Manasser was a moneylender from Winchester. He had a brother, Deulebecoc, whom he sometimes worked with. At an unknown date, Manasser was arrested for coin-clipping and held in the royal prison in Winchester. On 10 May 1243, the king ordered that he be transferred to the Tower.

He escaped execution and had been freed from prison by October 1244, when and Deulebecoc were recorded as paying a fine of 4 marks for making a false claim against William de Chinham. He is not to be confused with the London and Norwich Manassers son of Ursel active in the 1270s.

Sources: *CLR*, 1240-45, p. 187; *CPREJ*, i, pp. 75, 76, 102; H. P. Stokes, *Studies in Anglo-Jewish History* (London, 1913), p. 274.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; WINCHESTER

39. Licoricia of Winchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1244; 1258

Biography: Licoricia was the most successful Anglo-Jewish businesswoman of her day. She was first married to Abraham of Kent, assumed to be the Abraham of Canterbury accused of ritual murder in 1225, who had died by 1234. They had four children, Cokerel, Benedict of Winchester, Lombard, and a daughter, Belia. Her first mention in the records is in 1234 as a widow who was lending money, initially with her business partner Peitevin, and later with Chera's son Deulebene and Belia.

Her second husband was David of Oxford (m. 1242), and they had a son, Asher, nicknamed Sweteman, born in 1243. David died in 1244. Through her son Cockerel, she also had a grandson, Abraham.

Following David's death, Licoricia was placed in the Tower until the portion of his estate owed to the king could be paid. She paid the crown 5000 marks in death duty, or one third of the property, as was required by law from the Jewish community. Almost all of this sum was sent directly to the Exchequer for the Henry III's works upon Westminster Abbey, one of the largest contributions to the project. Henry also negotiated that the debts owed to David by Simon de Montford and Eleanor, Countess of Pembroke, would be forgiven.

Licoricia continued to call on royal support, particularly in reclaiming debts owed to her. The most notable example was the case she brought against Thomas de Charlecote. In January 1250 Henry granted that 'she shall have seisin of all the lands, rents and tenements late of Thomas

de Charlecote, which are her pledge, and that she shall not be disseised thereof until the debts for which they are pledged were paid'. However, the court found Licoricia guilty of usury on usury, making Charlecote's loan illegal, for which she was pardoned by Henry and fined half a gold mark.

In 1251, Henry granted Licoricia all of David's debts and freedom from tallage in return for a payment of 25 marks a year.

In 1258, Licoricia was sent to the Tower a second time, accused of theft. Her former partner Belia sent her a gold ring to give to Henry, which disappeared. Licoricia's neighbour, Ivetta, accused her, leading to Licoricia's imprisonment. Ivetta was subsequently believed to be the thief, and Licoricia was released, but the ring was never found.

In April or May 1270, Licoricia was required to present herself before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer a plea of account by Henry de Montfort. The Sheriff of Southampton explained that she was absent due to illness. However, witnesses stated that she was seen in town, clearly not ill.

Licoricia and her Christian maid Alice were murdered at home in Winchester in 1277, 'each having a blow to the chest, made by a blow to the heart'. Three initial suspects (Roger le Scurre, Adam le Soller and John le Sclatiere) were indicted. Unusually, the jury was made up of twelve Christians, rather than the usual half Christians and half Jews. At the trial in June 1277, five of the twelve jurors did not turn up, and new jurors were selected. They found all three suspects innocent of both murders, and named Ralph le Seller, who had conveniently left the city, as the most likely to have committed the crime. Their release was thanks in part to the influence of juror Henry of Dernegate. Licoricia's sons Cokerel and Sweteman did not accept the verdict and tried unsuccessfully to press charges against Roger le Scurre and the others.

Sources: Reva Berman Brown and Sean McCartney, 'David of Oxford and Licoricia of Winchester: Glimpses into a Jewish Family in Thirteenth-Century England', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 39 (2004), 1–34; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 399-401; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 56-7; *CPREJI*, p. 227; III, pp. 248, 258, 293

Keywords: CANTERBURY; DEBT; FEMALE; MURDERED; ROYAL PATRON; THEFT; WINCHESTER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221)

[40. Leo son of Deuleben](#)

Type: Prisoner

Date: October/November 1244 to c. February 1245

Biography: In October/November 1244, Leo, his daughters Antera and Sigge, Sigge's husband Elias, and her uncle Elias son of Deuleben appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews. They

were accused of breaking the king's peace. Elias of Warwick came before the court and said that they met his wife Bessa in the high street of Warwick and attacked and beat her so severely that she miscarried. They also took a gold buckle and eight gold rings worth 10 marks from her.

Leo and the others denied this. They also pointed out that they should not have to answer Elias' charges, as his wife should be the one to sue them, not him, and she was still alive but had chosen not to press charges. They asked that Elias not be allowed to testify against them as he had not witnessed the incident. Elias responded that the crime did involve him, as it was his infant who died and his goods that were stolen. Antera and the others pointed out that they were not found in possession of these rings and buckle that Elias said they stole.

Instead, they claimed that it was Antera who was attacked. She had been walking through Warwick when Bessa and others came and beat her, gnawing at her nose and ears. Leo's wife then rushed to help Antera but they swore that no one laid a hand on Bessa. Bessa then went home and faked a miscarriage by lying on her blood and covering herself and the bed in animal blood.

The Justices agreed with Antera and the others that Elias had no grounds to bring the claim against them himself. However, Henry III was concerned by the case and ordered a jury to be assembled of six knights from a foreign county and six knights from Warwick. In the meantime, Leo, Antera, and Sigge were handed over to the Constable of the Tower.

In February 1245, after about six months of imprisonment, the jury's inquest reported that Leo, Antera, Sigge, and Leo's sister Muriel had assaulted Bessa, causing her to miscarry, and robbing her. They said that the four Jews had met Bessa at the door of her husband Elias' synagogue in Warwick a little after noon on Tuesday 22 February 1244. Leo kicked her so that she fell within the door as if dead. Antera, Sigge, Muriel, and Leo's wife Henna then dragged her out of the doorway by her hair and beat her. When she was brought home, she miscarried. The infant was too young to be able to identify its sex. The jurors said that Bessa was wearing gold rings and a buckle at the time, but they did not know the number and quality of these. They said that Bessa did not attack Antera and bite her, nor did she smear animal blood on herself. Instead, she had been bathed in blood as she held her miscarried child.

Leo, Antera, Sigge, and Muriel were to be committed to prison and their chattels seized by the king. The jurors deemed Elias of Warwick to have made a false charge of theft of the gold rings and buckles and was to be fined one mark. At an unspecified later date, Leo, Henna, Antera, Sigge, Muriel and their household made a fine with the king: they were to keep their chattels but to leave Warwick within eight days and never return. Leo also found two pledges, his brother Bonevie of Newbury and Isaac of Paris, that he would never harm Elias. This final condition hints at an older feud between the two families, of which the attack upon Bessa or Antera was only the final episode.

Leo was still alive in June 1275, when he and Isaac son of Josce of Warwick were sued by John Turber in a plea of account.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 103-104, ii, p. 293; *Select Pleas*, pp. 11-12.

Keywords: ASSAULT; EXILE; MALE; PRISONER; THEFT; WARWICK

See also: Antera daughter of Leo son of Deuleben (41); Sigge daughter of Leo son of Deuleben (42)

41. Antera daughter of Leo son of Deuleben

Type: Prisoner

Date: October/November 1244 to c. February 1245

Biography: In October/November 1244, Antera, her father Leo, her sister Sigge, Sigge's husband Elias, and her uncle Elias son of Deuleben appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews. They were accused of breaking the king's peace. Elias of Warwick came before the court and said that they met his wife Bessa in the high street of Warwick and attacked and beat her so severely that she miscarried. They also took a gold buckle and eight gold rings worth 10 marks from her. For the details of this case, see No. 40 above.

It has not been possible to trace Antera further. It was not a very common name, so she may have been the Antera recorded in 1276 who was the wife of Josce son of Benedict, or the Antera, widow, accused of a trespass in 1274, or one of a few other Anteras that appear in the record.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 103-104, ii, pp. 209-10, iii, pp. 133-34; *Select Pleas*, pp. 11-12.

Keywords: ASSAULT; EXILE; FEMALE; PRISONER; THEFT; WARWICK

See also: Leo son of Deuleben (40); Sigge daughter of Leo son of Deuleben (42)

42. Sigge daughter of Leo son of Deuleben

Type: Prisoner

Date: October/November 1244 to c. February 1245

Biography: In October/November 1244, Sigge, her husband Elias, her father Leo, her sister Antera, and her uncle Elias son of Deuleben appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews. They were accused of breaking the king's peace. Elias of Warwick came before the court and said that they met his wife Bessa in the high street of Warwick and attacked and beat her so severely that she miscarried. They also took a gold buckle and eight gold rings worth 10 marks from her. For the details of this case, see No. 40 above. It has not been possible to trace Sigge further.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 103-104; *Select Pleas*, pp. 11-12.

Keywords: ASSAULT; EXILE; FEMALE; PRISONER; THEFT; WARWICK

See also: Leo son of Deuleben (40); Antera daughter of Leo son of Deuleben (41)

43. Floria mother of Jacob of London

Type: Prisoner

Date: By late August/early September 1246

Biography: Sometime between 30 August 1246 and 2 September, the king ordered the Constable of the Tower to release Floria mother of Jacob and Belia Jacob's wife on bail to twelve Jews. They had offered the king security of 50 gold marks in return for their release. The pair had been arrested on charges of coin-clipping. In 1259, Jacob was described as a 'Jew of London', suggesting that Floria and Belia were also. At that time, the pair owed the king 1 mark in bail, perhaps the remainder of the 50 marks from 1246.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 43, no. 607.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER

See also: Belia wife of Jacob (44)

44. Belia wife of Jacob

Type: Prisoner

Date: By late August/early September 1246

Biography: Sometime between 30 August 1246 and 2 September, the king ordered the Constable of the Tower to release Floria mother of Jacob and Belia Jacob's wife on bail to twelve Jews. They had offered the king security of 50 gold marks in return for their release. The pair had been arrested on charges of coin-clipping. In 1259, Jacob was described as a 'Jew of London', suggesting that Floria and Belia were also. At that time, the pair owed the king 1 mark in bail, perhaps the remainder of the 50 marks from 1246.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 43, no. 607.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER

See also: Floria mother of Jacob of London (43)

45. Solomon

Type: Prisoner

Date: Sometime after 18 July 1247

Biography: On 18 July 1247, the king ordered the sheriff of Wiltshire to transport Solomon to London. He had converted to Christianity but then returned to Judaism. For this, he was to be imprisoned in the Tower of London. Henry le Peleter, the king's approver, was also to be taken to London and may have been linked to Solomon's case, though he was to be imprisoned in Newgate instead. As Solomon is quite a common name and his Christian name does not survive, it has not been possible to identify him further.

Sources: *CLR*, 1245-1251, p. 133.

Keywords: APOSTASY; CONVERT; MALE; PRISONER

46. Abraham of Berkhamsted

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1250

Biography: An important moneylender, Abraham's patron was Richard earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. Richard held the castles and honours of Berkhamsted and Wallingford in fee from about 1229. The two men had developed an association by 1231. Permission was given retrospectively in 1235 for Jews to settle in Berkhamsted and establish an *archa* there, but Richard had Abraham and the *archa* moved to Wallingford Castle in 1242. Abraham served as a tallage assessor in 1246 and 1249. In April 1250, Abraham was described as 'the king's Jew' in his appointment to a commission investigating the Jewry in London, York, Canterbury, Lincoln, and Nottingham.

Matthew Paris claimed that Abraham was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1250 for desecrating a statue of the Virgin Mary with Jesus on her lap. Supposedly, he put the statue in his privy and did 'most filthy and unmentionable' things to it and convinced his wife Floria to do the same. She secretly washed the dirt from the statue and Abraham discovered this and suffocated her. He was put in the 'foulest dungeon of the Tower of London' and 'almost all the other Jews' lobbied for his execution. When Richard spoke on Abraham's behalf, they offered him 1000 marks (£666 13s 4d) to keep him in prison. For a fine of 700 marks (£466 13s 4d), Richard was able to secure his release. There is no evidence that Paris' story about the statue is true. Abraham was indeed in legal trouble in 1250 but this appears to have related to financial issues, not charges of murder or blasphemy. He only lost his chattels for this and the records describing the case state that judgement of death or loss of limb was to be reserved to the king. This would have been quite lenient treatment and a slight punishment in thirteenth-century England if Abraham had both murdered his wife and desecrated a Christian statue.

In January 1255, he was granted to Richard, permitted to lend money 'in the king's land like the king's demesne Jews' and exempted from tallage and from having any debts owed to him pardoned. After Richard's death in 1272, Abraham was granted by Henry III to Richard's son and heir Edmund.

Sources: *CCR*, 1247-51, pp. 235, 263, 284, 299, 320, 339, 360, 375; *Chronica Majora*, v, pp. 114-15; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 50-52; Gavin I. Langmuir, 'The Knight's Tale of Young Hugh of Lincoln', *Speculum*, 47:3 (Jul., 1972), pp. 459-82, at 463; *Select Pleas*, pp. 108-109.

Keywords: BERKHAMSTED; COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; ROYAL PATRON

47. Aaron I Blund

Type: Prisoner

Date: By March 1252

Biography: Aaron was the son of Leo I Blund and father of Samuel and Flora Blund. The Blunds were a leading family in the London Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth. Elias' home in London was in Cheapside, on the south side of St Olave's churchyard, located between there and the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre. His family's wealth and prominence may have been behind why Aaron was chosen as one of five Jews from London appointed to an inquiry into coin-clipping in 1238.

In early 1252, Aaron, his wife Pigona, their son Samuel, Aaron's brother Elias and his wife Flora and his wife Pigona and their son Samuel, all tried to flee England. This was probably prompted by a large increase in their tallage, the result of Aaron son of Abraham negotiating with the king for a lower tallage rate for himself, something that Aaron had done himself in the past. The family was caught, and Aaron, Elias and Samuel imprisoned. By 6 March 1252, the two brothers were able to give sufficient security to be released from the Tower, but they would only have their property returned to them once this was fully paid. Floria and Pigona were pardoned of outlawry for trying to evade the tallage. The two brothers and their sons were absent from the list of London guarantors of the 1255 tallages, indicating that the family had suffered a significant loss of wealth for their attempted escape.

On 16 August 1252, in return for 6 gold marks, Aaron was pardoned of all trespasses relating to a gold chalice that he supposedly bought contrary to the Assize of the Jewry. All of seized possessions and houses were to be returned.

Aaron was still alive in 1258-59, when he paid a fine for a trespass. He had houses in St Lawrence Jewry Parish, near the Guildhall, St Olave Parish, and in Colechurch Parish.

Sources: *Cartulary of St Bartholomew's Hospital*, ed. Nellie J. M. Kerling (London, 1973), Appendix I, no. 212; Richard Cassidy, 'The 1259 Pipe Roll', unpublished PhD thesis, two volumes (King's College London, 2012), no. 2315; *CChR*, 1226-57, pp. 74, 79; *CCR*, 1231-34, p. 484, 1251-53, p. 61; *CPR*, 1232-47, p. 228; *CPREJ*, i, pp. 70, 90, 91, 101, 107, 110, 113, 115, 119, *FRP*, Roll 49, no. 959; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 109, 112-14; *Select Pleas*, p. 13.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Elias Blund (48); Floria Blund (59); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49); Wife of Samuel Blund (50)

48. Elias Blund

Type: Prisoner; Sanctuary-seeker

Date: By March 1252; c. 20 April 1264

Biography: Elias was the son of Leo I Blund and father of Leo Blund of Milk Street, Aaron I Blund, Josce Blund, and Moses Blund. He was married to Flora. The Blunds were a leading family in the London Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth. Elias' home in London was in Cheapside, on the south side of St Olave's churchyard, located between there and the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre.

In early 1252, Elias, his wife Floria, his brother Aaron and his wife Pigona and their son Samuel, all tried to flee England. This was probably prompted by a large increase in their tallage, the result of Aaron son of Abraham negotiating with the king for a lower tallage rate for himself, something that Aaron Blund had done himself in the past. The family was caught, and Aaron, Elias and Samuel imprisoned. By 6 March 1252, the two brothers were able to give sufficient security to be released from the Tower, but they would only have their property returned to them once this was fully paid. Floria and Pigona were pardoned of outlawry for trying to evade the tallage. The two brothers and their sons were absent from the list of London guarantors of the 1255 tallages, indicating that the family had suffered a significant loss of wealth for their attempted escape.

Elias was at the Tower for a final time in 1264. Around Easter (20 April) that year, John FitzJohn, one of Simon de Montfort's supporters, attacked the London Jewry. The *French Chronicle of London* dates this to 9 and 10 April. FitzJohn killed a leading member of the London Jewry, Isaac son of Aaron. He also killed Cok son of Abraham with his bare hands. The Jewry was burnt, and many Jews slain. Some of the Jews were saved by the justiciar and the mayor of London, who sent them to the Tower for their protection, along with the London *archa*. An inquisition of 1268 into the London property of Leo son of Preciosa recorded that both he and Elias Blund fled to the Tower in 1264, where Elias died, probably of wounds received in the Montfortian attack.

Sources: *CCR*, 1251-53, pp. 49, 61; *Chronicles of the Mayors*, p. 234; *FRP*, Roll 49, no. 324; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 109, 112-14; London, TNA, C 145/15, no. 8; *King's Jews*, p. 89.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; RIOT; SANCTUARY-SEEKER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Aaron I Blund (47); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61); Floria Blund (59); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49); Wife of Samuel Blund (50)

49. Samuel Blund

Type: Prisoner

Date: By March 1252

Biography: Samuel was a Londoner and moneylender. He was the eldest son of Aaron I Blund and Pigona. He was married to Margalicia. The Blunds were a leading family in the London Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth. He lived in St Lawrence Jewry parish, London.

Samuel began moneylending by the mid-1230s and was listed on the 1239 and 1241 tallage assessments. By 1250, he was struggling under the weight of the tallages and in 1251 he paid half a gold mark to the king in order to be taxed at a lower rate.

In March 1252, the king ordered that Samuel and his wife should be temporarily released from the Tower until a month after Easter, in return for a payment of half a gold mark. Their imprisonment was probably linked to her husband and in-laws' escape attempt. In early 1252, Elias, his wife Floria, his brother Aaron and his wife Pigona and their son Samuel, all tried to flee England due to the extortionate tallage rates that the king demanded of them. For details of this case, see No. 48 above. Samuel was still repaying his tallage arrears in 1254.

He had died by 1266, probably a victim of the Montfortian attack upon the London Jewry in 1264. His property had suffered greatly during the civil war. When his holdings were inventoried, the two plots of land on which he used to live and the site of a house in Colechurch parish were all empty, presumably destroyed in the attack and not yet rebuilt. After his death, there was an accusation that a group of Christians and Jews went to his house and dug up and carried away Samuel's treasure. For details of this case, see No. 78.

Sources: *CCR*, 1251-53, pp. 62, 100, 115, 178, 199-200; *CPREJ*, i, pp. 91, 109, ii, p. 160; *FRP*, Roll 49, nos 56, 314, 324, 656, 755, 856; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry Revisited', *Jewish Historical Societies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 114; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 240.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Aaron I Blund (47); Elias Blund (48); Floria Blund (59); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Wife of Samuel Blund (50)

50. Wife of Samuel Blund

Type: Prisoner

Date: By March 1252

Biography: This woman may have been Margalicia, wife of Samuel Blund, though it is possible that Samuel married more than once. The Blunds were a leading family in the London

Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth. Her husband was the son of Aaron I Blund and his wife Pigona.

In March 1252, the king ordered that Samuel and his wife should be temporarily released from the Tower until a month after Easter, in return for a payment of half a gold mark. Their imprisonment was probably linked to her husband and in-laws' escape attempt. In early 1252, Elias, his wife Floria, his brother Aaron and his wife Pigona and their son Samuel, all tried to flee England. For details of this case, see No. 48 above.

She may have been the Margaliz the widow who paid the Tower sergeant 8s for several trespasses sometime after 13 June 1277. She was still alive in summer 1280, when Margalicia sued Michael le Oynter for a debt.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 189, vi, no. 589; *FRP*, Roll 49, no. 324; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 240.

Keywords: FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Aaron I Blund (47); Elias Blund (48); Floria Blund (59); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49)

51. Isaac of Norwich, convert, son of Moses

Type: Prisoner

Date: By November 1252

Biography: The grandson of Isaac of Norwich through his son Moses, this Isaac was imprisoned in the Tower by November 1252, probably accused of coin-clipping. He converted to Christianity to escape execution but the king suspected the sincerity of this and ordered an investigation. He survived this and was eventually released, though, as a convert, his property was forfeit to the crown.

Sources: *CPR*, 1247-58, p. 224; 'Conversion', p. 272; V. D. Lipman, *The Jews of Medieval Norwich* (London 1967), pp. 109-10.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; CONVERT; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Isaac of Norwich (2)

52. Aaron son of Hak of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1255

Biography: In March 1255, the king commanded the sheriff of Worcester to have Hak of Worcester and his sons Sampson and Aaron transported to the Tower of London, there to be handed over to the Constable. This order was accompanied by a command for the sheriff to

inspect the Worcester *archa* and followed a separate order for an inquiry into certain debts owed to Hak of Worcester. This investigation of the *archa* suggests that Hak and his sons were accused of some crime involving their charters, perhaps creating false ones or illegally detaining charters of debts that had been repaid.

When Eleanor of Provence persuaded her son Edward I to allow her to expel the Jews from her dower lands in January 1275, the Worcester Jewry was relocated to Hereford. Aaron, along with his brother Sampson, was one of these Jews. Aaron was still alive in 1280, when his late father's debts were investigated.

Besides Sampson, Aaron had two other brothers, Ursell and Josce, and a sister, Belia, who married Jacob Couperon. Josce was killed in 1264, probably in one of the Montfortian attacks upon England's Jews.

Sources: *CCR*, 1254-56, p. 51; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 106, v, no. 148, vi, no. 270; Joe Hillaby, 'Testimony from the margin: the Gloucester Jewry and its neighbours, c. 1159-1290', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 37 (2001), pp. 41-112, at 100, 103; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 161.

Keywords: FRAUD?; MALE; PRISONER; WORCESTER

See also: Hak of Worcester (53); Sampson son of Hak of Worcester (54)

53. Hak of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1255

Biography: In March 1255, the king commanded the sheriff of Worcester to have Hak of Worcester and his sons Sampson and Aaron transported to the Tower of London, there to be handed over to the Constable. This order was accompanied by a command for the sheriff to inspect the Worcester *archa* and followed a separate order for an inquiry into certain debts owed to Hak of Worcester. This investigation of the *archa* suggests that Hak and his sons were accused of some crime involving their charters, perhaps creating false ones or illegally detaining charters of debts that had been repaid.

Hak died in 1268. A 1273 order for a search to be made of the *archae* of Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, and London for any of his bonds, states that he died of an illness. The number of *archae* to be searched indicates that Hak had developed a significant and wide-ranging moneylending business. Besides Aaron and Sampson, Hak had two further sons, Ursell and Josce, and a daughter, Belia, who married Jacob Couperon. One of these sons, Josce, was killed in 1264, probably in one of the Montfortian attacks upon England's Jews.

Sources: *CCR*, 1254-56, p. 51; *CPREJ*, ii, p. 57; Joe Hillaby, 'Testimony from the margin: the Gloucester Jewry and its neighbours, c. 1159-1290', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 37 (2001), pp. 41-112, at 100, 103; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 161.

Keywords: FRAUD?; MALE; PRISONER; WORCESTER

See also: Aaron son of Hak of Worcester (52); Sampson son of Hak of Worcester (54)

54. Sampson son of Hak of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From March 1255

Biography: In March 1255, the king commanded the sheriff of Worcester to have Hak of Worcester and his sons Sampson and Aaron transported to the Tower of London, there to be handed over to the Constable. This order was accompanied by a command for the sheriff to inspect the Worcester *archa* and followed a separate order for an inquiry into certain debts owed to Hak of Worcester. This investigation of the *archa* suggests that Hak and his sons were accused of some crime involving their charters, perhaps creating false ones or illegally detaining charters of debts that had been repaid.

When Eleanor of Provence persuaded her son Edward I to allow her to expel the Jews from her dower lands in January 1275, the Worcester Jewry was relocated to Hereford. Sampson, along with his brother, was one of these Jews.

Besides Aaron and Sampson, Hak had two further sons, Ursell and Josce, and a daughter, Belia, who married Jacob Couperon. One of these sons, Josce, was killed in 1264, probably in one of the Montfortian attacks upon England's Jews.

Sources: *CCR*, 1254-56, p. 51.

Keywords: FRAUD?; HEREFORD; MALE; PRISONER; WORCESTER

See also: Aaron son of Hak of Worcester (52); Hak of Worcester (53)

55. John of Lincoln

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 22 November 1255 to 10 January 1256

Biography: John of Lincoln was a Jewish convert to Christianity. It is unknown what his original Jewish name was. He was incarcerated in the Tower from 22 November 1255, charged with being a party to the ritual murder in Lincoln of a nine-year-old Christian boy called Hugh. The city's Jewish community was accused of ritually crucifying him, possibly with the support of Jews from elsewhere. In 1791, an examination of the skeleton attributed to Hugh did not find any evidence of crucifixion or indeed any other damage to the bones. This ritual murder accusation was encouraged by the bishop and dean of Lincoln, who were probably motivated by the prospect of a new saint's cult in the city and all the pilgrim donations that would entail.

John was one of 91 or 92 Jews brought to Westminster from Lincoln and imprisoned in the Tower on 22 November. Eighteen Jews, who had declined to be tried by a solely Christian jury in Lincoln, were hanged 'after the hour of dinner' towards the end of the day, according to London's *Liber antiquis legibus*. The remaining prisoners were taken back to the Tower. Faced with the threat of execution, John soon converted to Christianity, taking the name of John of Darlington, the king's confessor. On 10 January, at Darlington's petition, the king pardoned the new convert and ordered his release from the Tower. John then disappears from the record.

Sources: *Chronica Majora*, v, pp. 546, 552; *Chronicles of the Mayors*, p. 25; Conversion, p. 272; *CPR*, 1247-58, p. 457; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 206-207; *King's Jews*, pp. 84-87.

Keywords: BLOOD LIBEL; CONVERT; LINCOLN; MALE; PARDONED; PRISONER; RITUAL MURDER

See also: Lincoln Jews accused of ritual murder (56)

56. Lincoln Jews accused of ritual murder

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 22 November 1255 to 15 May 1256

Biography: In 1255, the body of a nine-year-old Christian boy called Hugh was found in a Lincoln well. The city's Jewish community was accused of ritually crucifying him, possibly with the support of Jews from elsewhere. In 1791, an examination of the skeleton attributed to Hugh did not find any evidence of crucifixion or indeed any other damage to the bones. This ritual murder accusation was encouraged by the bishop and dean of Lincoln, who were probably motivated by the prospect of a new saint's cult in the city and all the pilgrim donations that would entail. Under torture, Jacob son of Leo 'confessed' to the killing and Henry III ordered him hanged, despite the bishop previously promising Jacob immunity. Ninety-two other Jews were then brought to Westminster from Lincoln and imprisoned in the Tower on 22 November. Some sources, like Matthew Paris' *Chronica Majora*, record 91 Jews. Eighteen Jews, who had declined to be tried by a solely Christian jury in Lincoln, were hanged 'after the hour of dinner' towards the end of the day, according to London's *Liber antiquis legibus*. The remaining prisoners were taken back to the Tower, one of whom converted. He took the name John of Lincoln after the king's confessor John of Darlington, whose intercession saw the new convert released from the Tower and saved from execution. Another prisoner, Master Benedict son of Master Moses of London, was pardoned and released from the Tower. The other 71 Jews were saved from hanging by the intercession of London's friars and the king's brother, Richard earl of Cornwall. They were released from the Tower on 15 May 1256.

Sources: *Chronica Majora*, v, pp. 546, 552; *Chronicles of the Mayors*, p. 25; Conversion, p. 272; *CPR*, 1247-58, p. 453; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 206-207; *King's Jews*, pp. 84-87.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; BLOOD LIBEL; CONVERT; EXECUTED; GROUP; LINCOLN; MALE; PARDONED; PRISONER; RICHARD EARL OF CORNWALL; RITUAL MURDER

See also: Benedict son of Moses of London (57); John of Lincoln (55)

57. Master Benedict son of Master Moses of London, of Lincoln

Type: Prisoner

Date: 22 November – 9 or 10 December 1255

Biography: The son of Master Moses of London, Benedict was a Talmudic scholar from Lincoln. He was also known as Rabbi Berechiah of Nicole. He lived in St Benedict's parish in Wigford, Lincoln, outside of the city's Jewry.

Benedict was one of Jews accused of murdering a nine-year-old boy in Lincoln called Hugh. For details of this case, see No. 56 above. Benedict was imprisoned in the Tower of London, but the inquisition into the case ruled that he was not complicit in the supposed killing, only after the event. Hugh's mother had also said that Benedict had no part in her son's supposed murder and a jury agreed. On 9 or 10 December 1255, the king pardoned Benedict at the instance of Garcias Martini and ordered his release from the Tower. Benedict was to be delivered to Martini, a Castilian knight and diplomat who was in England to negotiate the marriage between the Lord Edward and Eleanor of Castille. His support suggests that Benedict may have had business interests in Spain.

Benedict died c. 1278. He had at least two children, Hagin and Belasset. The former was still alive at the Expulsion and may have been the Hagin son of Benedict who was imprisoned in the Tower in 1279. Benedict's brother, Hagin son of Master Moses, and Hagin's son Cok, were also prisoners at the Tower.

Sources: *CPR*, 1247-58, pp. 324, 453; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 207, 215-16.

Keywords: BLOOD LIBEL; LINCOLN; MALE; PARDON; PRISONER; RABBI; RITUAL MURDER

See also: Hagin son of Benedict (219); Hagin son of Master Moses (63); Lincoln Jews accused of ritual murder (56)

58. Licoricia of Winchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1258

Biography: See No. 39 above.

59. Floria Blund

Type: Prisoner

Date: By September 1260

Biography: Floria was part of two of the leading Anglo-Jewish families in London. She was born a Blund, the daughter of Aaron I Blund, and had married into the l'Eveskes. Her brother-in-law, Elias l'Eveske, was archpresbyter of the Jews, the crown-appointed community leader, from 1243 to 1257. He and his brothers Jacob and Solomon, Floria's husband, were moneylenders and financiers to Henry III and his court. They also worked to buy gold for the king. Elias was accused of corruption in office in 1249 and 1252 but survived each time. In 1257, however, he was found guilty of selling certain debts to Richard earl of Cornwall but continuing to collect the payments for himself. Elias was removed from office and his rivals, Hagin and Cresse, sons of Master Moses of London, paid the king three gold marks on behalf of the Jews of England to never again let Elias be archpresbyter. The following year, Elias was accused of hiring an assassin to kill Hagin, who had been wounded but survived the attack. To escape execution, Elias and his two sons converted to Christianity. Their goods were therefore forfeit to the crown and were sold to Elias Menahem, brother of Cresse and Hagin. The downfall of Elias l'Eveske was soon followed by that of Solomon, who abjured the realm for an unspecified crime, leaving his wife Floria imprisoned in England.

On 22 September, Henry III, at the instance of his wife the queen, Eleanor of Provence, and Marie de Seningham, ordered the Constable of the Tower to release Floria from prison on bail, if she could find twelve Jews or Christians to act as her mainpernors. The order said that her husband had abjured the realm for a certain felony. Floria was presumably accused of complicity. Solomon had probably fled by October 1259, when his chattels were delivered into the Wardrobe by several royal officials including the Constable. His goods included 85 marks 40d of gold. 24½ marks of this was in bezants (a gold coin from the Eastern Mediterranean, usually Byzantine), 31 marks in obols of Murcia (coins from Muslim Spain), 3½ marks in other coins and ingots, and 26 marks 40d in gold leaf. The amount of gold, much of it from abroad, suggests that he was still acting as a gold-buyer for the crown.

Solomon returned to England in 1261, where he worked to serve Queen Eleanor. He had died by November 1265, possibly killed in the Montfortian attack upon the London Jewry in 1264. Floria later remarried Benedict of Winchester and died in 1275.

Sources: Reva Berman Brown and Sean McCartney, 'David of Oxford and Licoricia of Winchester: glimpses into a Jewish family in thirteenth-century England', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 39 (2004), pp. 1-34, at 22; *CCR*, 1259-61, p. 119; *CPR*, 1258-66, p. 48; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 242-46; Robert Stacey, 'Eveske, Elias l', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, rev. ed. 2008), doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/52245 [accessed 20 September 2021].

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER;

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221); Aaron I Blund (47); Elias Blund (48); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49); Wife of Samuel Blund (50); Solomon l'Eveske (37)

60. Jacob Couperon AKA Couperon

Type: Prisoner

Date: By March 1262

Biography: Jacob was the fourth of Bonenfaunt of Gloucester and Genta's six sons. His wife was Belia, the daughter of Hak of Worcester. He had at least one son, Hagin.

He was imprisoned in London by March 1262 on unspecified charges. He was probably held at the Tower, as it was the Constable of the Tower who was ordered to release him on 23 March and restore his chattels to him, after Couperon had paid the king a fine of 2 gold marks. The constable of Gloucester Castle was later ordered to also restore Couperon's possessions.

Jacob was killed in the Montfortian attack upon the Gloucester Jewry in 1264.

Sources: *FRP*, Roll 59, nos 252, 256-57; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 150-51, 275, 414; Joe Hillaby, 'Testimony from the margin: the Gloucester Jewry and its neighbours, c. 1159-1290', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 37 (2001), pp. 41-112, at 78.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; GLOUCESTER; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Hak of Worcester (53)

61. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: c. 20 April 1264

Biography: Around Easter (20 April) 1264, John FitzJohn, one of Simon de Montfort's supporters, attacked the London Jewry. The *French Chronicle of London* dates this to 9 and 10 April. FitzJohn killed a leading member of the city's Jewry, Isaac son of Aaron. He also killed Cok son of Abraham with his bare hands. The Jewry was burnt, and many Jews slain. Some of the Jews were saved by the justiciar and the mayor of London, who sent them to the Tower for their protection, along with the London *archa*.

Sources: *Chronicles of the Mayors*, p. 234; *King's Jews*, p. 89.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; GROUP; RIOT; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189 (1); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220 (3); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236 (25); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267 (65); Elias Blund (48); Hagin son of Master Moses (63)

62. Elias Blund

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: c. 20 April 1264

Biography: See No. 48 above.

63. Hagin son of Master Moses

Type: Prisoner?; Sanctuary-seeker

Date: c. 20 April 1264; 6 June 1277x25 December 1278?; from 13 June 1277?

Biography: Hagin was born into an illustrious family. He was son of Master Moses, an important intellectual figure and businessman. He had several brothers, Cresse (d. 1270), Vives, Elias, Berechiah and Jacob (of Oxford). His brother, Master Elias, gained an international reputation for practicing medicine. His paternal uncle was Master Isaac of Oxford. He was married to Belasez, and he had a son, Cok.

By September 1255, Hagin was serving Richard, earl of Cornwall and brother of the king, as his attorney. Thanks to this royal connection, in May 1257 he and his brother Cresse were able to pay 1½ gold marks for freedom from tallage for the next five years. Both brothers acted as his attorneys when Richard went away to Germany in April 1257. In July of that year, the archpresbyter, Elias l'Eveske was deposed following accusations of unlawful interference with Richard's debts. Hagin and Cresse were among those petitioning for his removal, and for future archpresbyters to be elected by the community and confirmed by the king. Not only were they successful in this, but Hagin was elected to the office himself in February 1258.

When Montfortian rebels attacked the London Jewry in 1264, Hagin sought refuge in the Tower. From there, he organised a group of Christians and Jews, led by Aaron Crespin, to go at night to the house of Cok son of Aaron, who had been murdered in the attack. There they dug up £1000 worth of gold and silver money, cups, girdles, and pieces and brought them back to Hagin. Hagin was subsequently granted a third of Cok's estate and the wardship of Cok's three sons.

In 1269, Hagin negotiated with Henry III that the Jews would be free from taxation for three years for the sum of £1000, unless Henry or his son went on crusade, then a full tallage would be levied. The next year, with the Lord Edward leaving for the crusade, the Jews were taxed 6000 marks. Hagin and his brother Master Elias attempted to raise this sum but were only able to reach 4000 marks. Richard of Cornwall loaned the remaining sum to the Jewry. In 1272, the year of Richard's death, the brothers were required to raise another 5000 marks tallage.

This may explain his lack of support from the jurors when he went on trial in 1273. He faced charges of concealing the death of his former ward, Manasser son of Cok. Hagin was accused of conspiring to divide Manasser's portion of Cok son of Aaron's estate between Manasser's two brothers, Benedict and Abraham, and to marry the brothers to his (Hagin's) daughter and

the daughter of Aaron Crespin. Seven jurors thought him guilty, three were non-committal. Edward I, now king, and his queen consort, Eleanor of Castile, were to have the final say when they returned from crusade in August 1274.

In November 1274 Hagin was imprisoned and all his property and debts were seized by the crown. These were soon claimed by Queen Eleanor, along with his property in Lincoln and York. The following year, he was being held at Windsor Castle rather than at the Tower.

Hagin may have been held at the Tower between 6 June 1277x25 December 1278 and from 13 June 1277. The Tower sergeant's roll for that period records two payments from the 'Jews in Hagin's Tower'. The roll does not specify for what reason. It is unclear which tower this may have been. This may have been named after Hagin because he was held there at that time, or it could be that, as archpresbyter, the crown-appointed head of England's Jewish community, he had his own tower at the site to help him carry out his royal duties.

In 1279, Edward I ordered all the debts due to Hagin to be paid into a separate chest, so that they could be recovered by Queen Eleanor. A repayment schedule, drawn up in 1281, detailing reclaimed estates, lands and cash worth several pounds from Hagin's wealthy clients, only represents a fraction of what was claimed by the queen.

Hagin was imprisoned on another charge of fraud in 1280 and by May 1281 he had died.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 163, iv, pp. 177, 193; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 188-190; *Select Pleas*, pp. 73-76, 84, 109.

Keywords: ARCHPRESBYTER; CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER?; ROYAL PATRON; SANCTUARY-SEEKER; TREASURE

See also: Benedict son of Cok (76); Jews in Hagin's Tower (119); Master Isaac of Oxford (172)

64. Leo son of Preciosa

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: c. 20 April 1264

Biography: Active since 1244, Leo was a moneylender based in London. That Leo was identified by his mother, Preciosa, suggests she was an important figure in the Jewish community. His wife was called Belasez and he had a nephew, Meir.

Leo contributed £1 2s 4d to the 1239 tallage, putting him in seventeenth place out of ninety among the payments made by London's Jewish community. The highest payment was £244 19s from Aaron son of Abraham and the lowest was 2s from Vives son of Samuel. The size of Leo's payment, which would have been based on his wealth, suggests that Leo was well-off, but certainly not exceptionally so. He seems to have become more prominent by 1259, when he was one of the three Jewish guarantors for the London portion of that year's tallage.

An inquisition into Leo's property in 1268 reported that he had hid in the Tower during the Montfortian attack on London along with Elias Blund. For details of the attack, see No. 61 above.

Leo was dead by June/July 1273. He had a house on the north side of Cat Street, St Lawrence Parish, London.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 83, 287, ii, p. 12; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 114, 116-17, 125; London, TNA, C 145/15, no. 8; R. R. Mundill, 'The Jewish entries from the Patent Rolls, 1272-1292', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 25-88, no. 118.

Keywords: MALE; RIOT; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61); Elias Blund (48)

65. Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1267

Type: Sanctuary-seeker

Date: From 8 April 1267

Biography: Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, attacked London in April 1267. Initially a supporter of Simon de Montfort, de Clare later changed sides and fought for the king at the Battle of Evesham in 1265. However, he was dissatisfied with the peace process, opposing the disinheriting of the rebels. When de Clare occupied the city on 8 April, the papal legate Ottobuono and many of the city's Jews retreated to the Tower, mindful of the earl's history of anti-Jewish violence. He had attacked the Canterbury Jewry in 1264. At the same time, fellow rebel John de Deyville was gathering troops in Southwark. He had attacked the Lincoln Jewry the previous year. The Jews were assigned a part of the Tower's walls to defend, probably on the west or north-west of what is now the inner curtain wall. Some of their houses were even used to help defend the Tower. At the London eyre of 1276, the jurors testified that, during the siege, Brian de Gowiz and William de Ferrers pulled down the houses of the Jews Solomon Blund and Master Elias, destroyed part of their timber and took the rest to build barricades at the Tower.

Sources: Sally Dixon-Smith, 'Protection, power and persecution: the Tower of London and the Jewish community until 1290', *Journal of Medieval History* (forthcoming); *Flores Historiarum*, ed. Henry Richards Luard, 3 vols (London, RS, 1890), iii, p. 14; *The London Eyre of 1276*, ed. Martin Weinbaum, London Record Society, Vol. 12 (London, 1976), no. 296.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; GROUP; RIOT; SANCTUARY-SEEKER

See also: Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1189 (1); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1220 (3); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1236 (25); Anonymous Jews in the Tower in 1264 (61)

66. Lombard of Cricklade

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1271/72

Biography: Lombard was a businessman with interests principally in Oxford. His wife was named Belia, and they had three children, Bonefey, Soloman, and a daughter, also named Belia.

Lombard moved to Oxford in the 1240s, and at one time lived in a house behind St Aldate's Church.

He was imprisoned for coin-clipping but released for the sum of 3 marks. He was also fined for concealing the details of his bonds in the chirograph chest in 1249. In 1252 he was imprisoned for not paying his tallage and paid 6 bezants for his release with the promise of paying the arrears from debts owed to him. More than once, he was imprisoned when the accused was in fact another Jew, Lombard of Bristol.

He reimbursed the Oxford Sheriff 1 mark for the transportation of himself and his son Bonefey to the Tower in 1271 or 1272. It is not known why they were taken or how long they were held at the Tower. It may have been linked to the 1272 tallage on the Jews, for which 'divers' unnamed Jews were imprisoned in the Tower. Lombard was also being pursued by the king for 50 marks that he owed as a fine for an exchanging trespass in Henry III's reign.

In January or February 1277, Lombard was suffering from an illness from which he did not recover. He was dead by April/May 1277. His death and the death duties left his wife and eldest son Bonefey in some financial difficulty. His debts were forfeit to the crown and in October 1278, twenty-three of his debts were taken out of the *archa* and put into the crown treasury.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 275, iv, p. 128, v, no. 873; Robin R. Mundill, 'Lumbard and Son: The Businesses and Debtors of Two Jewish Moneylenders in Late Thirteenth-Century England', *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, 82.1 (1991), 137-170; Zefira Entin Rokéah (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), no. 449; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 41, 64-6, 91, 95-96.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; CRICKLADE; MALE; OXFORD; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Belia (160); Bonefey of Cricklade (234); Bonevie of Oxford (67); Lombard of Bristol (29)

67. Bonevie of Oxford AKA Bonevie son of Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: Sometime between 28 October 1271 and 27 October 1272; sometime after 13 June 1277

Biography: Bonevie was a moneylender based in Oxford. His wife was called Floria. Sometime between 28 October 1271 and 27 October 1272, the sheriff of Oxford took Bonevie of Oxford and Lombard of Cricklade from Oxford to the Tower of London. It is not known why they were taken or how long they were held at the Tower. It may have been linked to the 1272 tallage on the Jews, for which ‘divers’ unnamed Jews were imprisoned in the Tower.

Bonevie was imprisoned again at the Tower by sometime after 13 June 1277, paying 2s to the Tower sergeant for gates, meaning permission to move around the castle precinct during the day. He and Isaac de Poulet later paid a further 5s for gates.

He seems to have been released late in 1278, when he repeatedly conducted business at the Exchequer of the Jews, but he was eventually condemned, and his property forfeited to the crown in 1277/78. His house in Oxford, worth 20s, was granted to a Henry Owain of Oxford. He was dead by October/November 1280, probably executed. In 1282-89, a Simon of Northampton, fripper, was fined 40s for concealing the chattels of a Bonevie, a condemned Jew who was hanged. This may have been the same man.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 181, 188, v, nos 346, 396, 466, 521, 540, 565, 583, 797, 890, vi, no. 761; Zefira Entin Rokéah (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), no. 449; London, TNA, C 47/9/50, E 101/119/12.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED?; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS?

See also: Anonymous Jews imprisoned for their tallage (70); Lombard of Cricklade (66)

68. Abraham son of Josce

Type: Prisoner

Date: From mid-June 1270-before 18 March 1272

Biography: A moneylender based in York, Abraham was twice imprisoned, at least once in the Tower, and even escaped from the castle. He seems to have been well-connected. In 1270, he was mainperned by Benedict of Winchester and Master Elias, two of the England’s most prominent Jews.

In late April/May 1270, Josce was accused by Thomas de Basinges, citizen of London, and his wife Joan in a plea of trespass. They said that Josce had sold them a debt of 40 marks and £65 of arrears that was owed to Josce by William de Dyne. They paid Josce £91 for this, but he had already acquitted William of the debt and cancelled the charter proving the debt, leaving the couple with an expensive but useless piece of paper. Abraham came and denied this and asked what evidence Thomas had that he ever sold them the debt.

Thomas produced the starr of 1263/64 by which Abraham had sold them the debt. Abraham admitted that the starr was genuine and then asked Thomas to show him how he had violated the agreement. Thomas responded that the charter of William's debt had been taken from the *archa* and acquitted four years before Abraham sold it to them, as shown by a search of the York *archa* by Sir Roger de Leye in 1261/62 that was ordered by the king.

Abraham swore that the charter was still in the *archa* when he sold it to Thomas and Joan. He also said that the chirographers of the *archa* should not be summoned as witnesses, as, if fraud had been committed, they would be complicit.

In mid-June, Sir Roger was summoned to court and testified that the charter was indeed in the *archa* when he searched it, but the document had been acquitted and so was removed. Abraham was found guilty of fraud and sent to the Tower of London. Thomas and Joan were to have their £91 returned and their damages.

Abraham later escaped from the Tower. On 18 March 1272, in return for a fine of 12 bezants (the exchange rate varied, but this was probably worth a bit over £1), he was pardoned from leaving the Tower without the permission of the keeper of the gaol or of the king.

In July 1272, Abraham sued the prior of the hospital of St Mary without Bishopsgate, London, in a plea of debt. He said the hospital held the houses that Dyay l'Eveske had pledged to Abraham for a debt and so he wished to collect the debt from the hospital. However, the charter of the debt was found to violate the Assize of Jewry as usury between Jews was now banned. Also, it was not written in the hand of one of the *archa*'s clerks, nor was it recorded in the last search of the *archa* and so was suspect. The prior was quit of the debt, which was instead seized by the king, who would levy it from Dyay, and Abraham was imprisoned, though it is not clear if this was in the Tower.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 128, 138, 227, 235, 239, 252, 266, 268, 269, 295, 308, ii, p. 7, iv, pp. 17, 26; *Select Pleas*, pp. 54-56, 65.

Keywords: ESCAPED; FRAUD; MALE; PRISONER; YORK

69. Bella of Bedford AKA Belia of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1272/73

Biography: Originally from Winchester, Bella was the widow of Deulebene son of Chera. Chera had been an important businesswoman and moneylender in Winchester, a career that Bella also pursued soon after Deulebene's death in 1236. In around 1245, Bella moved to Bedford where she married Peitevin of Bedford. Upon his death in 1261, Bella had to pay £490 to inherit his £1500 estate. £266 13s 4d (400 marks) were paid up front and she agreed to pay the remaining balance at 40 marks per year. By 1272, she resided in London. In 1272/73, she was being held at the Tower for the full debt of 735 marks 5s 5d, probably because she had

failed to produce receipts to the Exchequer proving her earlier payments. She was the mother-in-law of Jacob and Benedict of Bedford, who were also prisoners at the Tower. She was still alive in 1276.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 288; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 49-50; Zefira Entin Rokéah (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), no. 514.

Keywords: BEDFORD; DEBT; FEMALE; PRISONER; WINCHESTER

See also: Benedict of Bedford (218); Jacob of Bedford (232)

70. Anonymous Jews imprisoned for their tallage

Type: Prisoner

Date: Before 18 June 1272

Biography: On 18 June 1272, Henry III ordered that the Jews held at the Tower of London could be released on bail until a fortnight after Midsummer (8 July), after which they were to be brought back to the Tower and held there until they paid their tallage, unless they paid a portion of it by 8 July and the rest on the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle (25 July).

Sources: *CPR*, 1266-72, p. 661.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; GROUP; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

71. Jospin of Basingstoke

Type: Prisoner

Date: From c. 29 June 1272

Biography: In late June/July 1272, a Thomas de Chelwarnton, through his attorney, tried to sue Jospin of Basingstoke and his brothers Lombard and Isaac at the Exchequer of the Jews in a plea of account. They did not appear and so the sheriff was ordered to bring them before the court. He reported that he could not bring them as Jospin and Lombard were imprisoned in the Tower for their tallage. They may have already been imprisoned by Easter 1272, when Lombard could not be found by the bailiffs of Basingstoke to answer Thomas' case.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 292-93, iv, p. 5.

Keywords: BASINGSTOKE; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Lombard of Basingstoke (72)

72. Lombard of Basingstoke

Type: Prisoner

Date: From c. 29 June 1272

Biography: In late June/July 1272, a Thomas de Chelwarton, through his attorney, tried to sue Lombard of Basingstoke and his brothers Jospin and Isaac at the Exchequer of the Jews in a plea of account. They did not appear and so the sheriff was ordered to bring them before the court. He reported that he could not bring them as Jospin and Lombard were imprisoned in the Tower for their tallage. They may have already been imprisoned by Easter 1272, when Lombard could not be found by the bailiffs of Basingstoke to answer Thomas' case. He may have been the father of Solomon son of Lombard, who paid 28d to the king in June 1274 for permission to move from Basingstoke to go live in Odyham.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 292-93, ii, p. 163, iv, p. 5.

Keywords: BASINGSTOKE; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Jospin of Basingstoke (71)

73. Deudone of Winchester AKA Deudone son of Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: By late June/July 1272

Biography: Deudone was one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Winchester *archa*. He also participated in moneylending.

In late June/July 1272, Deudone was summoned to appear before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer Reginald Oysun's charge that he and the other chirographers illegally detained a charter of his debt to Dyay l'Eveske, despite Reginald already being quit. But the sheriff reported that he could not attend court as he was held in the Tower of London for his tallage.

In June/July 1274, Deudone sued Robert Hue and seventeen others for assault, claiming £200 in damages. Deudone said that he had gone to Southampton with the sheriff of that town to collect on some debts, but Robert and the others, with the support of the townspeople, attacked him on 10 April that year. At the third hour of the day (probably meaning three hours after dawn), they gathered with swords, axes, bows, and other weapons, and rung the town bell against Deudone and the sheriff. They assaulted Deudone, pulled him off his horse, stole his tabard, surcoat, and 6 silver marks, and one of the men, Roger, wounded him in the arm with a knife. A jury was to be assembled but many of the jurors failed to appear and the sheriff complained that local royal officials were not helping him to find them.

Deudone seems to have been attacked a second time soon after. In October/November that year, a Roger of Dunstable and thirteen others came before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer a plea by the king. The group were accused of, with the support of the townspeople of

Winchester, attacking Deudone in the town, assaulting him and breaking his doors and windows, carrying away 20 marks-worth of his goods. Roger and the others denied the charges and a jury was to be summoned but again there were problems. The jury was to be composed only of people from the area outside Winchester, probably because the townspeople were suspected of complicity, but the sheriff had chosen jurors from within the town. The sheriff was ordered to appoint a new jury.

In January/February 1275, Deudone was still pursuing the Southampton case. This time he was accusing three different men, James de Castello, Wymund de Dertemue, and Peter de Lenms, but the details of the date, assault, and robbery were the same. He named the Roger who wounded him as Roger Baluayer. A jury was summoned but Deudone was essoined (given leave not to appear). A new date was set but then the judge due to hear the case was unable to attend. A further date was set, but the jury failed to appear, as did most of the defendants and the others were essoined.

The Winchester case had also stalled, with the defendants failing to appear and the sheriff repeatedly complaining that the bailiffs of Winchester were not helping him find them. In May 1275, the sheriff reported on the Southampton case that he was unable to find most of the defendants and two of them were dead. These repeated delays in both cases suggest that local officials and the townspeople were intentionally obstructing Deudone and that he was right to accuse them of complicity in the attacks.

He was still alive in October/November 1278, when he sued Robert Bonet and John de la Price in separate pleas of debt, but he was dead by June/July 1281, when he was described as a condemned Jew. Walter le Horder, burgess of Southampton, was accused of receiving some of Deudone's goods and chattels, which should have been forfeit to the king. The goods were three gold brooches worth 4 marks, two silver cups with feet worth 100s, two red girdles with silver bars worth 24s, and other goods worth 22s 8d. Deudone had probably been executed as part of the coin-clipping trials. A 1285 account of the sale of the goods of condemned Jews recorded that Deudon's cloths, bronze pots, basins, plates and other small utensils were sold to Master Ralph, salsarius (either a salt-merchant or the household official in charge of sauces) to the king, for 56s 8d, and a further £4 from his goods found at Tuderle in Thorngate Hundred.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'Inventory of the Property of the Condemned Jews (1285): Part of a Pipe Roll in the Public Record Office', *Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 2 (1935), pp. 56-71, at 64; *CPREJ*, i, pp. 292-93, could be Deudone son of Isaac of Winchester in ii, pp. 1, 130-31, 196, 216, 217, 219, 220, 227, 286, 302, iv, p. 25, v, nos 92, 104, 105, 174, 317, 318, 365, 366, 518, 519, 537, 538, 648, 676, 757, 758, vi, nos 1115.

Keywords: CHIROGRAPHER; EXECUTED; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS; WINCHESTER

74. Saunte of Colchester AKA Saunte son of Ursel

Type: Prisoner

Date: By late June/July 1272

Biography: Saunte and Cok were summoned to appear before the Exchequer of the Jews in late June/July 1272, to answer the plea of Roger de Jarpenville that they acknowledge a starr which quit him of the debt he owed the two Jews. They failed to appear and the sheriff reported that Cok lived in London whilst Saunte was imprisoned in the Tower. It is not clear what he was found guilty of.

Saunte was imprisoned again in 1277, but it is not clear that this was in the Tower. He does not appear in the Tower sergeant's roll for that period, though this may have been because he successfully avoided drawing the sergeant's attention or getting into further trouble. He was imprisoned for an offence committed on 7 December 1267. The 1277 Essex eyre heard that on that day, a doe had been startled by the dogs of Sir John de Burgh the elder while out hunting. The animal ran past Colchester to the woods on the other side. Some of the town's inhabitants, including Saunte, gave chase, startling the doe so much that she jumped a wall and broke her neck. They were imprisoned and fined. For Saunte, this was a sum of 40s.

He was still alive at the 1290 expulsion. An inquiry from that year into the property of the now-exiled Jews of Colchester recorded that Saunte held the town synagogue as well as the shop attached to it. The two properties were valued at 7s a year in total. He also owed the royal hundred of Colchester three suits of court a year.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 294, iii, p. 312; Joseph Jacobs and Lucien Wolf (eds), *Catalogue of the Anglo-Jewish Historical Exhibition, Royal Albert Hall, London, 1887* (Cambridge, 1888), pp. 8-9; *King's Jews*, pp. 119-20; Zefira Entin Rokéaḥ (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), no. 1323, n. 41.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; COLCHESTER; MALE; PRISONER

75. Manasser of Bradworth

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1272

Biography: Manasser was a moneylender from Lincolnshire, though Bradworth has been identified as Brodsworth, near Doncaster. He served as one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Lincoln *archa* from at least 1262 to at least 1275. His Lincoln home was a 'good house, well-built' in Brauncegate, modern Grantham Street. He was the son of Solomon of Bradworth. His own son was also called Manasser. He also had at least one daughter, Elekyn, is recorded in 1275.

In June/July 1272, he was to appear before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer Andrew de Neville in a plea of account. However, the sheriff of Lincoln reported that Manasser could not attend court as he was imprisoned in the Tower of London on the king's order. It is unknown what Manasser was accused of.

He had failed to pay his tallage by January/February 1273. It was ordered that his debts be withdrawn from the Lincoln *archa* so that they could be used by the king to recover the money.

He appears to have either died or retired from moneylending by January/February 1275, from which point he no longer has bonds in the York and Lincoln *archae* and references to his debts are only to those held by the Crown.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 147, 210, 213, 230, 291, 306, ii, pp. 8, 19, 190, 299, iii, pp. 14, 18, 135, iv, pp. 17, 25, 26, 124, v, nos 138, 429, 633, 638, 646-7, 715, 826-27; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 209; R. R. Mundill, 'The Jews in England 1272-1290' unpublished PhD thesis (University of St Andrews, 1987), pp. 282-83.

Keywords: BRADWORTH; CHARGE UNKNOWN; CHIROGRAPHER; LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER

76. Benedict son of Cok

Type: Sanctuary

Date: By 25 November 1272 to at least 30 November 1272

Biography: Benedict was a moneylender based in London. He was the son of Cok son of Aaron and had two brothers, Abraham and Manasser. Following the killing of his father in 1264 by John fitz John in the Montfortian attack on the London Jewry, Benedict and his brothers became wards of Hagin son of Master Moses. Benedict later married one of Hagin's daughters. Hagin was later investigated at the Exchequer of the Jews, accused of embezzling part of Manasser's inheritance following his early death, and dividing it between Benedict and Abraham. Legally, the inheritance should have passed to the king. For details of the case, see No. 63 above.

Benedict hid in the Tower following Henry III's death on 16 November. On 30 November, one of his debtors, William de Mungumeri, brought 36 marks to the Exchequer to be paid to Benedict. William explained that he had tried to repay him on the 25th, but that he was hiding in the Tower because of the king's death. He was presumably still hiding there by the 30th when William gave up trying and left the money for him at the Exchequer instead. Benedict no doubt remembered the attacks upon the London Jewry in 1264 and 1267 and feared a repeat, especially with the new king abroad on a leisurely return from crusade. That he was still in hiding some two weeks after Henry's death indicates the strength of his fears, understandable considering the murder of his own father in 1264, which must have been a deeply traumatic event for Benedict, then a child.

Benedict interacted with the Tower again sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant a fine of 53s 4d for defaming Adam de Kandeys.

In 1277/78, he was hanged for felony and the half a messuage that he held in St Stephen Parish, London, was forfeited to the crown. Benedict's uncle Manasser son of Aaron bought the house

from the king for 2½ marks. He may have been doing this to help provide for Benedict's family, who would have been left destitute following his forfeiture. Half a messuage in Coleman Street and half a messuage opposite Colechurch that he had held were granted to Gregory de Rokesley in December 1280.

Sources: *CChR*, 1257-1300, pp. 213, 246; *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 56, 99, 171, v, nos 81, 342, 532, 595, 604, 793, 925, vi, nos 443, 479; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 238-39; London, TNA, C 47/9/50; Rokéah, no. 430; *Select Pleas*, pp. 74-76.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; EXECUTED; LONDON; MALE; PRECAUTIONARY; SANCTUARY

See also: Hagin son of Master Moses (63); Manasser son of Aaron (212)

77. Jurnet son of Abraham

Type: Prisoner; staff

Date: c. October 1273 (prisoner); by June/July 1281 (staff)

Biography: Jurnet is the only unconverted Jewish person known to have worked at the Tower in the medieval period. Based in London, Jurnet seems to have been a relatively respected figure in the community, being vouched to warranty by other Jews in court cases in 1272 and 1277, as an attorney in 1280, and as a mainpernor for the wealthy Benedict of Winchester in 1281. He engaged in some moneylending and had links with the Tower from an early period. Two charters relating to his purchase of a messuage in St Botolph's Parish, East Smithfield, in 1271-72 were witnessed by Ralph de Andebury, sub-Constable of the Tower. He also held houses just north of Colechurch Street, St Olave's Parish. However, his early relationship with the site was not a wholly positive one. In October 1273, Jurnet was being held at the Tower for a debt of 12 marks he owed the king, as well as other 'divers trespasses'. He was bailed by Aaron of Rye, Isaac of Southwark, Sampson le Prestre, Bonevay of Bedford, and Benedict of Winchester. A royal pardon enrolled in the Exchequer of the Jews in 1278 shows that this imprisonment was due to a debt that Jurnet had sold and the tallage assessed upon him.

Jurnet was again in conflict with the law in June 1279, when the Constable of the Tower was to be ordered to arrest him and Hake of Canterbury and bring them before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer Thomas of St Michael's claim that the two men taunted and beat him, but the order was not given nor was any writ to the Constable returned. The two parties later reached an agreement that the Jews would pay Thomas 1 mark in return for him forgiving any trespasses they may have committed against him.

In a court case of June/July 1281 we find our sole reference to Jurnet as a 'sergeant of the Tower of London'. Jurnet, Aaron son of Elias, and Moses of Dog Street had been carrying the body of Josce of Guildford on a cart through the street of Southwark. Josce had been murdered while travelling from Dartford towards Plumstead and his body was presumably being brought to London for burial in the city's Jewish cemetery. The party of Jews was stopped by the bailiff

of Southwark, who demanded a toll of 2s for every cart carrying dead Jews through the streets. The three Jews said that they were excused from all tolls by the king and a fight soon broke out. The bailiff's men assaulted the Jews, overturned the cart, and took a tabard for the toll. The case was brought to court and the bailiff was unable to produce any charter proving his right to extract this toll. He and his men were imprisoned. Though the record does not specify what Jurnet's exact duties at the Tower were, he may have had some responsibility for carrying the bodies of deceased Jews to London's cemetery for burial. The Constable of the Tower was a witness to some of the late thirteenth-century charters relating to the cemetery and the mass incarceration and execution of Jews at the Tower in the late 1270s may have led to the Tower taking on a more direct role there.

Jurnet may have already been working at the Tower by May 1280, when Richard of Waldegrave, Constable of the Tower, had the debt that John de Bayfield, clerk, owed to Jurnet enrolled at the Exchequer of the Jews. This would make it easier for Jurnet to pursue Bayfield for repayment through the courts and may be an instance of the Constable using his authority to benefit one of his servants.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 141, 218-19, 300, ii, pp. 55, 109, 163, iii, pp. 139, 177, 262, v, nos 690, 703, 719, vi, nos 99, 107, 194, 485, 554, 1124, 1132, 1213, 1223; London, Goldsmiths' Hall, 1642/B39, ff. 117v-118r, 120r-121r; London, TNA, E 210/44, E 40/7830, E 40/7831; *Select Pleas*, p. 99.

Keywords: ASSAULT; DEBT; LONDON; MALE; PARDONED; PRISONER; STAFF

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221); Hake of Canterbury (189); Moses of Dog Street (229)

78. Josce of Warwick

Type: Prisoner

Date: From June 1274

Biography: Josce was probably held at the Tower after making a false accusation involving the treasure of Samuel Blund. Samuel had died by 1266, possibly killed in the Montfortian attack upon the London Jewry in 1264. In June 1274, the Justices of the Jews had heard that, after Samuel's death, Aaron son of Vives had gone to his house and dug up his treasure, including gold and silver totalling a large sum of money. By law, buried precious metals belonged to the king. The Justices ordered the Constable of the Tower of London to bring as many Jews as possible who might know about this before the court. Twenty-four Jews were found, including Josce's son Manasser.

They swore that neither Aaron or any other person had found treasure in Samuel's house, nor did Aaron ever have any such treasure. Asked who it was had accused Aaron, they said that it was Josce of Warwick, who had quarrelled with Aaron. Aaron was acquitted of the accusation and the Constable was ordered to arrest Josce and bring him before the court. When Josce came, Aaron alleged that Josce threatened him with bodily harm. Josce was ordered to find

security that he would not harm Aaron, but he refused. Josce was found to be in contempt and was committed to prison. The Constable's involvement in the case suggests that Josce was actually a Londoner and, like most of the London Jewry, the Tower was probably the prison he was held in.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 160.

Keywords: FALSE ALLEGATION; MALE; PRISONER; TREASURE; WARWICK

See also: Aaron son of Vives (139)

79. Elias of Doncaster

Type: Prisoner

Date: By October/November 1274

Biography: Despite his name, Elias appears to have lived in Stamford, where he was one of the two Jewish chirographers of the *archa* there. He also operated as a moneylender. In January/February 1275, a search of the Stamford *archa* found that Elias had the second-largest number of bonds, at 18 out of 126.

In July 1273, Elias and Sampson son of Meir were accused by Eudo la Ghuche, Raymond le Ghuche, and Nicholas de Chishull, of a trespass. When the three men were near the Stamford Jewry, Sampson, Elias, and several other Stamford Jews came to Eudo's inn on 13 March 1273 and accused the three Christians of abducting or murdering Gertelote daughter of Meir son of Sampson (presumably Sampson son of Meir's sister). They said that these charges, and the subsequent search of the inn, had greatly damaged their reputation in the town, to the value of £100. Sampson and Elias came and denied this and a jury was to be summoned. The three Christians then went on to accuse Solal wife of Bateman, Genta wife of Meir son of Sampson, and Gertelote wife of Sampson son of Meir, and Prude, Elias of Doncaster's wife, of an unspecified trespass.

In October/November 1274, the Justices of the Jews investigated the conduct of Elias' colleague Hugh of Torrington, one of the two Christian chirographers of the Stamford *archa*. He was accused of receiving many charters without the knowledge of the other Christian chirographer, John Ploughman, keeping them outside the *archa*, thereby violating his oath of office and the assize and custom of the Jewry. Elias and the other Jewish chirographer, Sampson son of Master Elias, were imprisoned in the Tower of London and unable to fulfil their duties. An inquest into John and Hugh's conduct found that they had both kept charters outside the *archa*. All four men were removed from office and new chirographers appointed. Elias was replaced with Thomas son of Aaron.

Elias was still alive in Easter 1281, by which time he had remarried. His new wife was called Belassez.

Sources: *CPREJ* i, pp. 300, 304, ii, pp. 33, 34, 170, iv, p. 14, vi, nos 606, 801, 859, 862; *Select Pleas*, pp. 81-82.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; CHIROGRAPHER; DONCASTER; MALE; PRISONER; STAMFORD

See also: Sampson son of Master Elias (80)

80. Sampson son of Master Elias

Type: Prisoner

Date: By October/November 1274

Biography: Sampson was one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Stamford *archa*. He also operated as a moneylender. In January/February 1275, a search of the Stamford *archa* found that Sampson had the fourth-largest number of bonds, at 14 out of 126. It is unclear who his father was. He was not Master Elias son of Master Moses of London, who had six sons, none of them called Sampson. The title ‘master’ suggests that his father may have been a rabbi.

In October/November 1274, the Justices of the Jews investigated the conduct of Sampson’s colleague Hugh of Torrington, one of the two Christian chirographers of the Stamford *archa*. He was accused of receiving many charters without the knowledge of the other Christian chirographer, John Ploughman, keeping them outside the *archa*, thereby violating his oath of office and the assize and custom of the Jewry. Sampson and the other Jewish chirographer, Elias of Doncaster, were imprisoned in the Tower of London and unable to fulfil their duties. He was probably imprisoned for his tallage arrears, as several of his charters were seized by the king for what Sampson owed of the 1274 great tallage. An inquest into John and Hugh’s conduct found that they had both kept charters outside the *archa*. All four men were removed from office and new chirographers appointed. Sampson was replaced with Pictavin son of Isaac.

He had a brother Josce, who had been executed by 1279 for coin-clipping, and a son, Meir. Sampson was still alive in June/July 1281, when he was a mainpernor.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, pp. 176, 195, 232, 244, iv, pp. 14, 76, 83, vi, nos 401, 664, 1166, 1194; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 255, 342; *Select Pleas*, pp. 81-82.

Keywords: CHIROGRAPHER; MALE; PRISONER; STAMFORD; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Elias of Doncaster (79)

81. Gywa

Type: Prisoner

Date: October/November 1274

Biography: In June 1274, Gywa paid the king one bezant so that she could move from Northampton to live in Bedford. Later that month, she had to defend herself against a charge by the king that her late husband, Sadekin of Northampton, had died intestate, and therefore his goods should have passed to the crown instead of her. She denied that she had any of her husband's goods, nor did he die intestate. Her new husband Leo of Norwich was also charged with this. In October/November, an inquest of Jews and Christians reported that Sadekin did die intestate and that he had £20 in coin and £10 in jewels and other movables, all of which Gywa took. Both she and Leo were imprisoned in the Tower.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, pp. 145, 174; *Select Pleas*, pp. 78-79.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER

See also: Leo of Norwich (82)

82. Leo of Norwich

Type: Prisoner

Date: October/November 1274; November 1274

Biography: Leo of Norwich's wife, Gywa was charged by the king in June 1274 that her late husband, Sadekin of Northampton, had died intestate, and therefore his goods should have passed to the crown instead of her. She denied that she had any of her husband's goods, nor did he die intestate. Her new husband Leo was also charged with this. An inquest of Jews and Christians reported that Sadekin did die intestate and that he had £20 in coin and £10 in jewels and other movables, all of which Gywa took. Both she and Leo were imprisoned in the Tower. On 12 November 1274, Leo was found wandering Westminster Hall without an escort and when he should have still been in prison, to be released only by order of the king or the Justices. He may have escaped but more likely was there to appeal his case or plead a different matter before the Exchequer of the Jews, which was held at Westminster. The Constable of the Tower's failure to hold Leo was to be discussed at the king's council. Leo later paid 2 bezants so that he could be at large for a week. This probably meant permission to leave the Tower. He had presumably been released by Easter 1275, when Leo and Jacob of Oxford were summoned to answer a plea of account by William Wyket. The Constable of the Tower reported that Jacob was imprisoned at the Tower but that Leo could not be found.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, pp. 174, 258; *Select Pleas*, pp. 78-79.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; ESCAPED?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Gywa (81); Jacob of Oxford (85)

83. Sakerel

Type: Prisoner

Date: By October/November 1274

Biography: Sakerel was a moneylender based in London. He came into conflict with William de Desebury, an Exchequer clerk, in 1267/68, owing him half a silver mark for a trespass Sakerel had committed against him. He still owed this sum in 1268/69 but eventually paid. In October/November 1274, Sakerel had been imprisoned at the Tower for certain ‘larcenies and other enormous trespasses against the peace’. The Constable of the Tower was ordered to bring him before the court to answer these charges, but he failed to do so. Instead, Sakerel was either set free or escaped and fled London and the Constable was fined £20.

By summer 1275, his wife Milkana was believed to have converted to Christianity. However, an inquest of Christians and Jews reported that she had never converted. This did not stop John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, later including her in a list of apostates he wished the king to arrest. They were still married in 1282 but Sakerel may have later remarried as, in 1290/91, Alan of Hornwade and Benedict of Shoreditch were granted houses in Colechurch Street, St Olave Jewry, which once belonged to a Jorvin wife of Sakerel.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess* (Philadelphia, 2021), pp. 132-35, 135 n. 108; *CPREJ*, ii, pp. 87, 151, 177, 288; London, British Library, Lansdowne MS 826, f. 31; Zefira Entin Rokéah (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), nos 91, 168; *Select Pleas*, pp. 99-100

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; ESCAPED; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

84. Nicholas le Convers AKA Nicholas the Goldsmith

Type: Prisoner

Date: Before 2 November 1274

Biography: Nicholas le Convers was a convert from Judaism, as was his wife Maud. Their pre-conversion identities are unknown. They probably converted in 1272 or shortly before, as Henry III awarded them both a stipend at the *Domus Conversorum*, the London house for converted Jews, in April of that year. They do not appear to have resided at the *Domus*, however, and instead may have lived in Ironmonger Lane, where Nicholas held part of a house. He was a goldsmith and moneylender, and it was this latter occupation that saw him imprisoned at the Tower. By late 1274, he was imprisoned for usury. In November 1274, the king ordered the Constable of the Tower to release Nicholas and a certain Hugh de Gisors to their mainpernors to stand trial at a later date. On 3 December, Nicholas was pardoned of ‘usurious extortion’ and communicating with usurers and the sheriffs and mayor of London were ordered to restore his goods to him. He was fined £10 for his trespass, but the king pardoned this after

Nicholas gave him a gold and enamel cup, which had been a pledge from Hagin, Jew of London.

He had several more brushes with the law. In 1276, he and nineteen others were accused of stealing horses from the king and committing a robbery in the London Jewry in 1262/3. That same year, he was again investigated for moneylending, but was saved by the 1274 royal pardon. In January 1278, a commission of oyer and terminer was ordered into Nicholas, then described as a citizen of London, who had been indicted of coin-clipping and buying clipped coins. He found mainpernors to bring him before the court. He does not appear to have been imprisoned in the Tower again, though he was fined 100s by the Tower sergeant in the 1270s for his servants fighting in the Jewry. He survived the coin-clipping trials and continued to lend money, including to the king. He had taken on two apprentice goldsmiths by 1305. He was still alive in 1318.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 107; *CPR*, 1266-72, p. 645, 1272-81, pp. 73-74, 275; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 174; Lauren Fogle, *The King's Converts: Jewish Conversion in Medieval London* (London, 2019), pp. 63-67.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; CONVERT; *DOMUS CONVERSORUM*; LONDON; MALE; PARDONED; PRISONER

85. Jacob of Oxford AKA Jacob le Clerk

Type: Prisoner

Date: By January/February 1275 to c. 8 June 1275; By October/November 1275

Biography: One of several Jacobs of Oxford in the record, this Jacob was a moneylender based primarily in London, where he was a chirographer of the *archa* there. He was the nephew of Elias l'Eveske. As chirographer, he was censured in October/November 1273 for giving his *archa* key to his son for safekeeping while he went overseas to Gascony. A jury of prominent Jews testified to this, and so a new chirographer was elected, Abraham Muton, who had the support of Benedict of Winchester. The election was contested, and two men were fined for contesting the election, one of whom argued with the Christian judges. The constable of the Tower and the sheriff of Oxford were ordered to seize Jacob's lands.

Jacob was imprisoned in the Tower by January/February 1275 for his tallage arrears. By June that year, he had been replaced in prison by one of his sons as a hostage. On 8 June, his son was released. Jacob must have been imprisoned again by October/November that year, when he was mainprised by Aaron son of Vives, Benedict of Winchester, Benedict of l'Eveske, and Moses son of Jacob (perhaps his son), and he was released by the Constable.

He was still alive in June/July 1278, when he was a juror.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 183; *CPREJ*, ii, p. 107, iv, pp. 46, 72, v, no. 704B; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford, 1951), pp. 68-78.

Keywords: CHIROGRAPHER; LONDON; MALE; OXFORD; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Aaron son of Vives (139); Anonymous son of Jacob of Oxford (91); Benedict of Winchester (221); Henna wife of Jacob of Oxford (225); Leo of Norwich (82)

86. Jews imprisoned for tallage

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. January 1275

Biography: In January 1275, the plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews record an incomplete note of eight writs given under the great seal on behalf of several Jews arrested for tallage, including Dieudonné Crespin, Benedict son of Jacob, divers Jews held in the Tower of London, the poor Jews of Cambridge, Jacob of Oxford, Bonamie of York, and Hagin and Dieudonné Crespin.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 46.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; GROUP; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Jacob of Oxford (85)

87. Sampson le Mire

Type: Prisoner

Date: 20 January 1275x8 June 1277

Biography: Sampson was held at the Tower and died in prison. He had been arrested with certain plate, perhaps suspected of coin-clipping. Sometime between January 1275 and June 1277, the tower sergeant received £10 from him. He may have been related to Elias le Mire.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 173.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Elias le Mire (176); Wife of Elias le Mire (186)

88. Capion

Type: Prisoner

Date: 20 January 1275x8 June 1277

Biography: Capion was held at the Tower sometime between January 1275 and June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 40s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not

specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. He was later fined 37s for several unspecified trespasses and 20s for striking and beating certain Christians. From 13 June 1277, he also paid 6d for 'leave to agree', 6d because he incurred a penalty, 6d for dicing (i.e. gambling), 6d because he failed to attend court, 4s 6d for spitting, 44s 9½d for respite of imprisonment, 18d for an amercement, a further 12d for dicing, 5s 6d for a trespass, 20d for a certain penalty, 37s for several trespasses, another 20s for striking Christians, 10d for an amercement, 5s 6d for an amercement, 6d for incurring a penalty, 6s so that he could withdraw a plea, 10d because he failed to appear in court, 10d for several defaults, and a final 10d for incurring a penalty. Capion appears in the sergeant's roll unusually frequently. He was either a frequent lawbreaker, or the sergeant had something of a grudge against him. One fine of 2s was paid on his behalf by a certain Christian, suggesting that he had some connections outside his community as well. Capion may have been the Elias Capion who was married to Henna, a prisoner at the Tower in 1280.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 174-75, 178-81, 183-85, 187-89, 191, vi, no. 683, 737.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Henna AKA Henna Capion (222)

89. Cresse son of Sampson

Type: Prisoner

Date: By January/February 1275

Biography: A Londoner, Cresse was imprisoned in the Tower for failing to pay his tallage of 9 marks (£6) 4s 5d. In January/February 1275, he managed to secure his release by granting to the king two debts that were owed to Cresse, one for £15 from Mabel atte Fullbrook and another from Ralph of the garden worth 100s. This totalled £20, much more than the £6 4s 5d that Cresse owed the king for his tallage. Despite his concession, the collectors of the tallage continued to distrain Cresse and pursue him for repayment, until June 1276, when the king ordered them to stop.

He was still having difficulties with his tallage payments in 1277, when he and an unnamed companion paid the Tower sergeant 4s for respite from tallage. Cresse was still alive in January/February 1278, when he was a mainpennor for Samme Pykethen.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 293; *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 54-55, 181, v, no. 283.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

90. Sampson Bunting

Type: Prisoner

Date: Before 25 April 1275

Biography: Sampson was based in Lincoln. He was imprisoned at the Tower of London for failing to pay the £21 that he owed for his tallage. On 25 April 1275, the king ordered the assessors of the tallage to release him. If he was unable to pay the £21 himself, then Solomon son of Samuel, king's Jew of London (and perhaps Sampson's mainpernor), was to grant the king a debt owed by William de Neyreford to pay the £21.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 162.

Keywords: LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Brother of Solomon Bunting (141); Meir son-in-law of Bunting (167); Solomon Bunting (140)

91. Anonymous son of Jacob of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 8 June 1275

Biography: An unnamed son of Jacob of Oxford was held prisoner in the Tower as a hostage for his father. On 8 June 1275, the king ordered the son's release.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 183.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; MALE; OXFORD; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

See also: Henna wife of Jacob of Oxford (225); Jacob of Oxford (85)

92. Abraham son of Abraham

Type: Prisoner

Date: From April/May 1276

Biography: Abraham, his wife Besse, and Josce of Oxford were presented before the Exchequer of the Jews in April/May 1276. They were accused of coin-clipping and 'other wickednesses' and delivered to the Constable of the Tower of London. She and her husband were found to have two large pieces of fused silver on their persons at their arrest. The silver weighed £6 6s 8d. They also had a pennyweight of clippings and a pair of large scissors for coin-clipping. The group also had two seals with them, one of copper and one of maple or steel.

The sheriff was ordered to enter Chichester to inquire of the locals what goods and chattels Josce, Abraham, and Besse had there in the hands of any Jews or Christians. But 24 of the

Christian locals violently resisted him. He may have been the Abraham son of Abraham of Marlborough recorded in 1275.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 3, 119, 124, 209.

Keywords: CHICHESTER; COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Besse (93); Josce of Oxford (94)

93. Besse

Type: Prisoner

Date: From April/May 1276

Biography: Besse, her husband Abraham, and Josce of Oxford were presented before the Exchequer of the Jews in April/May 1276. They were accused of coin-clipping and ‘other wickednesses’ and delivered to the Constable of the Tower of London. She and her husband were found to have two large pieces of fused silver on their persons at their arrest. The silver weighed £6 6s 8d. They also had a pennyweight of clippings and a pair of large scissors for coin-clipping. The group also had two seals with them, one of copper and one of maple or steel.

The sheriff was ordered to enter Chichester to inquire of the locals what goods and chattels Josce, Abraham, and Besse had there in the hands of any Jews or Christians. But 24 of the Christian locals violently resisted him.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 119, 124, 209.

Keywords: CHICHESTER; COIN-CLIPPING; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Abraham son of Abraham (92); Josce of Oxford (94)

94. Josce of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From April/May 1276

Biography: Josce, Abraham, and Abraham’s wife Besse were presented before the Exchequer of the Jews in April/May 1276. They were accused of coin-clipping and ‘other wickednesses’ and delivered to the Constable of the Tower of London. Josce had been arrested at Kersauton and was found in possession of two small scissors and two large pieces of fused silver weighing £6 6s 8d, which were believed to have been made from coin-clippings. Abraham and Besse were found to have two large pieces of fused silver on their persons at their arrest. The silver weighed £6 6s 8d. They also had a pennyweight of clippings and a pair of large scissors for coin-clipping. The group also had two seals with them, one of copper and one of maple or steel.

The sheriff was ordered to enter Chichester to inquire of the locals what goods and chattels Josce, Abraham, and Besse had there in the hands of any Jews or Christians. But 24 of the Christian locals violently resisted him.

Josce may be the same Josce of Oxford as the financier, son of Benjamin of Oxford, who came to live in Norwich. He and his wife, Comitissa, had a son, Meir.

He was still alive in 1277 when he served on an all-Jewish jury in a high-profile case against Josce Bundy son of Benedict.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 119, 124, 209; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford, 1951), pp. 41, 44, 81.

Keywords: CHICHESTER; COIN-CLIPPING; KERSAUTON; MALE; NORWICH?; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Abraham son of Abraham (92); Besse (93)

95. Isaac son of Ursel

Type: Prisoner

Date: From April/May 1276

Biography: In April/May 1276, Alexander of Kirkton, sheriff of York, was ordered to present any Jews he had arrested for failing to pay their tallage. One such was Isaac, who was brought before the Exchequer of the Jews and committed to the Tower of London. The sheriff then mainperned for Isaac to pay his tallage, suggesting either one of Isaac's friends or family had paid the sheriff to do so on their behalf or that he had some sort of relationship with the sheriff, perhaps as a lender. He may have been the Isaac son of Ursel l'Eveske who could not be found to answer the plea of William Darel in May 1275. If so, then Ursel appears to have had some links with the Christian community, as two of his four mainperners were Christians.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 263, iii, p. 134.

Keywords: MALE; PRISONER; TALLAGE ARREARS

96. Haginet

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. 10 June 1276 to after 13 June 1277

Biography: Haginet twice paid the Tower sergeant 65s 3d for respite of imprisonment, meaning that he paid to avoid jail. It is unclear if he actually set foot in the Tower at this point or if he paid prior to being imprisoned. He was held at the Tower by June 1276, when Haginet was brought before the Justices of the Jews along with the clipped coin that was seized by the

sheriffs. He was then returned to the Tower. He later paid the Tower sergeant 4s for gates, that is, permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid the sergeant 8s for an unspecified trespass. As only his first name survives, it has not been possible to discover further information about him.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 205, iv, pp. 175, 185, 187, 190.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

97. Isaac of Calne AKA of Kaune/Kanne

Type: Prisoner

Date: From June/July 1276 to before June 1277

Biography: Isaac was a moneylender based in Oxford, though his name suggests that he was originally from Calne in Wiltshire. His moneylending business seems to have mostly involved Berkshire. A survey of the Oxford *archa* in October/November that year listed eight of Isaac's acknowledgements held there, six of which were from Berkshire debtors.

In June/July 1276, Roger of Somerset was taken from Oxford prison and brought before the Exchequer of the Jews. He confessed to being a thief and accused Vives le Lung, Josce of Hereford, and Isaac of Calne of complicity with him and receiving stolen goods from him. Roger accused Isaac of receiving a silver bowl, a silk girdle, a sendal (a light silk used for ceremonial dress) and some other small items which he had taken in Leicester. Isaac and Josce both came and denied these charges. They were imprisoned in the Tower of London while a jury was summoned for each of them. Isaac's wife Genta was also impleaded by Roger and accused of complicity with Isaac.

Isaac seems to have been released from the Tower by June 1277, when his arrest was ordered in the case of Josce Bundy, who was accused of multiple trespasses against the peace. Josce was another Oxford Jew who appears to have feigned conversion to Christianity. He was believed to live neither as a Jew or a Christian and when questioned by the Justices of the Jews which he was, he asked if he could give them an answer in a few days. Rabbis were consulted and they testified that anyone who did not immediately say they were a Jew when asked was clearly not a Jew and that therefore, as a convert to Christianity, Josce's chattels were forfeit to the king. An inquest into his chattels found that at his arrest, Josce had £30 of chattels. £10 of them had passed to his brother's wife, Meiroth, and £20 had passed to Isaac of Calne. Both Jews were to be arrested to answer the charge of illegally concealing goods from the king and Josce was to be imprisoned. Josce later abjured the realm (went into exile). An inquisition into Isaac and Genta's goods in July 1277 reported that both their possessions in the *archa* and outside totalled no more than 60 marks. In October/November, both Isaac and Genta were to be arrested for concealing Josce's chattels. However, neither of them could be found and their mainpernors did not have them. Isaac was also accused of robbery by Sampson Foliot, justice, but a jury found that he was innocent.

Despite these repeated accusations of criminality, Isaac was considered suitable to serve on the Oxford jury into the chattels of the late Benedict son of Jacob l'Eveske in June/July 1278. By 1280, some of his debts appear to have been seized by the king, who pursued the debtors for repayment. Isaac may have granted these debts to him as a fine for the crimes he was accused of in 1276 and 1278.

In October/November 1284, Genta and their son Salle were accused of a trespass by Isaac son of Aaron and his wife Abigail. He was also accused of being complicit with Isaac de Poulet the Younger in the murder of William de Prene, but seems to have been found innocent. For details of this case, see No. 235. The following year, the couple were indicted for coin-clipping by the Oxford eyre. Isaac was executed (misdated by Adler to 1278), his goods forfeited to the king and sold. A gold brooch weighing 11d was sold for 5s 6d and five silver cups without feet and weighing 48s 2d went for 41s 4½d. A mazer cup (wooden drinking bowl) and six silk girdles sold for 21s 4d.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'Inventory of the Property of the Condemned Jews (1285): Part of a Pipe Roll in the Public Record Office', *Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 2 (1935), pp. 56-71, at 63; *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 185-86, 189, v, nos 133A, 150, 666, 874, 902, 915, vi, nos 282, 316, 326, 422, 601, 865; London, TNA, E 9/45, m. 7, JUST 1/705, m. 26; *Snappe's Formulary and other records*, ed. H. E. Salter, Oxford Historical Society (Oxford, 1924), p. 286; *Select Pleas*, p. 96.

Keywords: CALNE; CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; EXECUTED; MALE; OXFORD; PRISONER; HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

See also: Isaac de Poulet the Younger (235); Josce of Hereford (98)

98. Josce of Hereford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From June/July 1276 to before June 1277

Biography: In June/July 1276, Roger of Somerset was taken from Oxford prison and brought before the Exchequer of the Jews. He confessed to being a thief and accused Vives le Lung, Josce of Hereford, and Isaac of Calne of complicity with him and receiving stolen goods from him. Josce was accused of receiving goods that Roger had stolen from a Ralph of Chesterton. Isaac and Josce both came and denied these charges. They were imprisoned in the Tower of London while a jury was summoned for each of them. Josce may have been released sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, when he paid the Tower sergeant 66s 8d for respite of imprisonment. His two daughters and an unnamed woman also paid the sergeant 5s in this period, though what for is unknown. Sometime after 13 June 1277, he again paid 66s 8d for respite of imprisonment and for having an inquisition, a further 1 mark for respite, and his two sons paid 5s for an unknown reason.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 185-86, iv, pp. 176, 177, 190, 191, 193.

Keywords: CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; HEREFORD; MALE; PRISONER; HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

See also: Isaac of Calne AKA of Kaune/Kanne (97)

99. Abraham son of Deulecresse

Type: Imprisonment

Date: By 1277x1279

Biography: Abraham was a prominent member of the Norwich Jewry and was one of the two Jewish chirographers of the city's *archa* in 1260. He held many properties in Norwich, especially in the area now called Abraham's Hall, between the Haymarket and the Horsemarket, and south-west of the site of Norwich's medieval synagogue. His wife was named Abigail. In 1274, 37 of his charters were removed from the *archa* until he paid his portion of the tallage.

Abraham was held at the Tower of London by 1277-79. A list of the possessions of condemned Jews from those dates records that he was imprisoned there on a charge relating to the king's coinage. A later document specifies that this was coin-clipping. In 1283/84, William de Gornay brought four starrs to the Exchequer that Abraham had made with John de Gornay. William said that John had tried to repay Abraham on the agreed day at the Norwich *archa*, but the chirographers had refused to take his money because Abraham was then being held in the Tower for coin-clipping. Six Jews swore that the starrs were good and true, but they did not know whether they were made when Abraham was in prison or paid when he was out of prison.

Abraham was executed sometime after January/February 1279, when he was described as being imprisoned, though coin-clipping was no longer the main charge. When his property in Abraham's Hall was forfeited to the crown, it was valued at £100 and sold to Vincent of Kirkeby. Some of Abraham's messuages, shops, and rents, worth £6 12s in total, were granted to a William of Shoreham. The record of the grant says that he had been burnt for blasphemy and other unspecified trespasses. An entry in the patent rolls specified that he was drawn and burned after being convicted of blasphemy.

Sources: *CPR*, 1272-81, p. 377; *CPREJ*, v, no. 940, vi, no. 9; V. D. Lipman, *The Jews of Medieval Norwich* (London 1967), pp. 78, 125-29, 133-34, 171-73; London, TNA, C 47/9/50, E 101/249/23, no. 2; Zefira Entin Rokéah (ed.), *Medieval English Jews and Royal Officials: Entries of Jewish Interest in the English Memoranda Rolls, 1266-1293* (Jerusalem, 2000), no. 974; *Select Pleas*, p. 88.

Keywords: BLASPHEMY; BURNT; COIN-CLIPPING; EXECUTED; MALE; NORWICH; PRISONER

100. Vivelot

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. June 1277

Biography: Vivelot was arrested by the Constable of the Tower of London on suspicion of coin-clipping. He was found in possession of a piece of fused silver. In court, he said that this was not made from coin-clippings but that he bought it lawfully as lawful merchandise. A jury of twelve Christians and twelve Jews of London agreed with him and he was set free. Sometime after 13 June 1277, he paid the Tower sergeant 6d for having suit, possibly related to this case, and then 20d for an amercement.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 318, iv, pp. 189-90.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

101. Anonymous Jews celebrating a festival

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unknown number of Jews paid 40s to the Tower sergeant so that they could celebrate a festival while imprisoned at the Tower. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 174.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FESTIVAL; GROUP; PRISONER

102. Hake Heringaud

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: Hake was imprisoned at the Tower sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, when he paid the Tower sergeant £15 2s for easy imprisonment, gates, and for respite of imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. Gates meant permission to move around the Tower precinct. He later paid 20d for unlawful detention, 10d for an amercement, a further £15 2s for respite from imprisonment, another 2s for gates sometime after 13 June 1277, 10d because he did not prosecute a plea, and 20d for leave to agree. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 175, 180, 185-87, 190, 191.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

103. Belassez

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Belassez was imprisoned at the Tower sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, when she paid the Tower sergeant 40s for light imprisonment. What this meant was not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 175.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

104. Isaac of Canterbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Isaac was held at the Tower sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, when he paid the Tower sergeant 50s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. He later paid 50s for respite from imprisonment. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He may have been the same man as Hake of Canterbury, who was imprisoned in the Tower in this period and later accused of murdering a Christian. Hake was one of the many variants of the name Yitzchak (Isaac) used in Christian documents.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 175-76.

Keywords: CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Hake of Canterbury (189)

105. Vives Crespin

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: A member of the important Crespin family of London Jews, Vives, along with Aaron Crespin and Isaac l'Eveske son of Rose, paid a total of 33s 4d to the Tower sergeant sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278 for raising the hue and cry. This was the rallying of bystanders to help apprehend a criminal. The fine suggests that the three Jews were deemed to have done so falsely, perhaps against an official as Aaron Crespin and some unnamed companions were later fined the same amount for raising the hue and cry against the bailiff. Sometime after 13 June 1277, Vives paid the sergeant 20d for gates, that is, permission to move around the Tower precinct.

He was probably released from the Tower in late June 1277, when he appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer a charge that he had been found with 11s of clipped halfpennies. The sheriffs of London testified that Vives had received them from a Christian as payment for goods he had sold but this was before Jews were barred from handling clipped coins, so Vives was cleared. In 1278, he was involved in a dispute with a Henry of Worcester over two messuages in Colechurch Street, London, but the two parties eventually reached an agreement.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 126, 291, iv, pp. 89, 175, 186, v, nos 319, 637.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

106. Four anonymous Jews celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Four unnamed Jews paid 53s 4d to the Tower sergeant so that they could celebrate Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur while imprisoned at the Tower. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FESTIVAL; GROUP; PRISONER

107. Five Canterbury Jews

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Five Jews from Canterbury paid 60s to the Tower sergeant to have ‘easy imprisonment’ while they were held at the Tower. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England’s Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

108. Jews in the tiled stable

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews imprisoned in the tiled stable at the Tower paid 53s 4d to the Tower sergeant so that they could be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England’s Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

109. Wife of Moses

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: This unnamed woman and the wife of Cok son of Jacob together paid the Tower sergeant a total of 40s so that they could be in the city of London because they were pregnant. They later paid the same sum to be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England’s Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. It is unclear who her husband was and without a more precise name, it has not been possible to identify her.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

110. Wife of Cok son of Jacob

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: This unnamed woman and the wife of Moses together paid the Tower sergeant a total of 40s so that they could be in the city of London because they were pregnant. They later paid the same sum to be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. Sometime after 13 June 1277, a Cok son of Jacob paid the Tower sergeant 10d for hitting a Christian woman. He may have been the Cok son of Jacob, Jew of Winchester, who was a mainpernor for Beycok son of Bonamie in 1281. It has not been possible to identify her further.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193, vi, no. 1098.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

111. Jews of Stamford

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Canterbury paid 50s to the Tower sergeant so that they could be imprisoned by themselves. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; STAMFORD

112. Lombard

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: Lombard twice paid the Tower sergeant 40d so that he could be imprisoned by himself. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. He may have been the Lombard son of Benedict of Winchester who was dead by June/July 1279, probably for coin-clipping.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221)

113. The woman in the elephant-house

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: A woman imprisoned in the elephant-house twice paid 8s to the Tower sergeant while she was held at the Tower. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The elephant had been gifted to Henry III in 1255 by Louis IX of France but died within a few years. The elephant-house was 40ft by 20ft and may have been located along the southern inner wall of the complex, between the Wakefield and Lanthorn Towers. The date of this woman's imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

114. Fourteen Jews acting as servants

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Fourteen unnamed Jews paid 40s to the Tower sergeant so that they could act as servants to other Jews at the Tower. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

115. Two Jews of York

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Two unnamed Jews from York paid 4s to the Tower sergeant so that they could be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the

day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; YORK

116. Three Jews of York

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Three unnamed Jews paid 6s to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned at the Tower. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 177.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; YORK

117. Jews in the tower beyond the elephant-house

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews twice paid 46s 8d to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in the tower beyond the elephant-house. This may have been the modern Wakefield Tower or Lanthorn Tower. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

118. Hagin son of Master Moses

Type: Prisoner; Sanctuary-seeker

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: See No. 63 above.

119. Jews in Hagin's tower

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; from 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid 33s 4d, later 13s 4d, and then 33s 4d again, to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in 'Hagin's tower'. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. It is unclear which tower this may have been. This may have been named after the Archpresbyter of the Jews Hagin son of Master Moses, who sought shelter in the Tower when London was attacked by Montfortian rebels in 1264. As the crown-appointed head of England's Jewish community, he may have stayed at the Tower occasionally to meet with the king or the Constable. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

See also: Hagin son of Master Moses (63)

120. Jews in Brother John's stable

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; after 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid 24s to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in 'Brother John's stable'. This sum was paid again sometime after 13 June 1277. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. It is unclear where within the complex this may have been. This may have been named after Brother John, master of the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre in England, a military-religious order which fought in the crusades. He was one of the two masons behind Edward I's expansion of the Tower in the 1270s. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 177, 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

121. Jews of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Oxford paid 26s 8d to the Tower sergeant. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; OXFORD; PRISONER

122. Jews of Hereford

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Hereford paid 50s to the Tower sergeant. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; HEREFORD; PRISONER

123. Jews of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Bedford paid 6s 8d to the Tower sergeant. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; BEDFORD; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

124. Jews in Brother John's tower

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; after 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid 76s 6d to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in 'Brother John's tower'. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. This sum was paid again sometime after 13 June 1277. It is unclear where within the complex this may have been. This may have been named after Brother John, master of the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre in England, a military-religious order which fought in the crusades. He was one of the two masons behind Edward I's expansion of the Tower in the 1270s. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

125. Jews in the cellar of Brother John's tower

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278; after 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid 54s 2d to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in the cellar of 'Brother John's tower'. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. This sum was paid again sometime after 13 June 1277. It is unclear where within the complex this may have been. This may have been named after Brother John, master of the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre in England, a military-religious order which fought in the crusades. He was one of the two masons behind Edward I's expansion of the Tower in the 1270s. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 178, 194.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

126. Jews of Lincoln

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Lincoln paid 26s 8d to the Tower sergeant so that they could be imprisoned by themselves. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; LINCOLN; PRISONER

127. Divers Jews fettered singly

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: Several Jews paid 64s to the Tower sergeant so that they could be fettered singly. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

128. Jews in Benedict of Winchester's tower

Type: Prisoner

Date: 6 June 1277x25 December 1278

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid 33s 4d and later 13s 4d to the Tower sergeant while they were imprisoned in 'the tower of Benedict of Winchester'. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. It is unclear which tower this may have been. Benedict of Winchester was imprisoned at the Tower of London in 1278 on charges of coin-clipping and was hanged in 1279. The large sum suggests that this was a group of several Jews or more. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221)

129. Jacob of Hammerstein

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Jacob's name suggests that he was German or had German origins. There were other German Jews in London at this time. An Abraham of Germany appears on the Tower sergeant's roll for 1277 and 1278. Jacob paid the sergeant 13s 4d sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277 for a certain allegation he was accused of. He was imprisoned in the Tower by sometime after 13 June that year, when the sergeant's roll records Jacob paying 2s for gates, permission to move about the Tower precinct. He later twice paid 6d for a trespass and 6d for an amercement. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

He was still alive at Easter 1280, when he was a mainpernor for Chera once the wife of Cresse son of Master Elias. As he could not produce Chera before the court, he and her other mainpernor, Solomon the Welsh, were fined one mark.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 173, 179, 182, 186, vi, no. 423.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; GERMANY; MALE; PRISONER

130. Jews of Wilton

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Wilton half a mark for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; WILTON

131. Jewish woman with Benedict of Chippenham

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unnamed Jewish woman and Benedict of Chippenham paid 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Chippenham (132)

132. Benedict of Chippenham

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unnamed Jewish woman and Benedict of Chippenham paid 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 178.

Keywords: CHIPPENHAM; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Jewish woman with Benedict of Chippenham (131)

133. Bonamy of Henley

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: In 1274, Bonamy paid 40s for the privilege of adding gates to his house, suggesting he was wealthy and owned quite a large property in Henley. Bonamy and Jacob Kone paid the Tower sergeant 40s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct, sometime after 13 June 1277. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 179; Jonathan Romain, 'River Jews: medieval Jews along the Thames as a microcosm of Anglo-Jewry', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 43 (2011), pp. 21-42 at 30.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; HENLEY; MALE; PRISONER

134. Jacob Kone

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Jacob and Bonamy of Henley paid the Tower sergeant 40s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct, sometime after 13 June 1277. He later paid the sergeant 10s for having aid. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 179, 181.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

135. Aaron of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277; 9 April 1285 to 11 June 1285

Biography: When Eleanor of Provence persuaded her son Edward I to allow her to expel the Jews from her dower lands in January 1275, the Worcester Jewry was relocated to Hereford and Aaron was appointed as one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Hereford *archa*. Sometime after 13 June 1277, he paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He may have been in prison since January that year, when he gave an *essoin* (an excuse for non-appearance) to the court in his case against Henry Edrich, whom he was pursuing for the repayment of a debt. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

By 1285, Aaron, his son Isaac, and either his or Isaac's wife Blaka (the sources disagree on who she was married to) were living in Oxford, where they were all indicted for the death of Robert the porter of Oxford Castle. As the three failed to appear in court to answer this charge, they were each outlawed. Isaac was also indicted of trampling upon Juliana daughter of Agnes of Blakham while on a horse in the Oxford Jewry. She died two days later. In February 1286, the pair were pardoned of outlawry, as it was unlawful to outlaw people while they were imprisoned and unable to appear to answer charges against them. The Constable of the Tower had informed the king that the two Jews turned themselves into the Tower in April 1285 after their indictment and had remained in prison until June that year. They were then transferred to the custody of a Thomas of Layton, perhaps an agent of the sheriff of Oxford, as they were held in Oxford prison by February 1287. By this time, Blaka had joined them. She is not mentioned as being held at the Tower and appears to have been imprisoned in Oxford soon after the 1285 indictment. Isaac was still alive in Easter 1290, when he paid 5s of a fine for a trespass.

Sources: *CPR*, 1281-92, p. 221; *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 89, 179, 180; *Crime and the Jews*, pp. 143-46.

Keywords: CHIROGRAPHER; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; MURDER; OUTLAW; PRISONER; WORCESTER

See also: Isaac son of Aaron of Worcester (240)

136. Two Cambridge Jews

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Two Jews from Cambridge paid the Tower sergeant 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 179.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CAMBRIDGE; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

137. Josce of Canterbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, Josce was fined 106s 8d for coin-clippings found in his house. The money was delivered to the Justices of the Jews. Between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, he paid the Tower sergeant a fine of 36s 8d for a trespass concerning halfpennies, probably the clippings that had been found in his house. Josce was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 12d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He later paid 36s 8d for a trespass and another 12d for gates. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. He had a son called Mendant.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 172, 173, 179, 180; Henry Summerson, 'Jews and felony in English communities and courts, 1190–1290', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 52 (2020), pp. 70-117, at 91.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

138. Bondi

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Bondi was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. He later paid the sergeant 40s to recover a certain charter.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 180.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

139. Aaron son of Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: A businessman with interests in London and Cambridge, Aaron was one of the most prolific medieval Anglo-Jewish moneylenders. This success was largely due to his royal patronage. By 1265, Aaron had secured the support of John de Warenne, earl of Surrey (1240-1304), and Edmund Crouchback, Henry III's second son, who personally guaranteed Aaron's property in December 1265. In 1270, Aaron was made Edmund's 'personal Jew', granting Edmund control over Aaron and his goods, and Aaron special privileges. These privileges included having an individual, favourable judge to hear him in court, and the ability to buy and sell debts without needing royal licence. His royal guardian also meant that Aaron could continue to purchase property in London, even after the king forbid Jews buying more houses in city in 1271.

Aaron held property around the City of London's Court of the Husting, St Lawrence Jewry parish and Cat Street. The Cat Street property, recorded in the 1271 patent rolls as having been bought by Aaron 'long ago', was a plot bought from Floria Blund, daughter of Aaron I le Blund. The neighbouring plot was owned by Aaron's grandmother, Slema, widow of Peytevin le Fort, and by 1282 had passed down to him. Archaeological excavations of this plot found objects dated to c.1270-c.1300, namely 88 items of fine tableware. This may have been the Peytevin family tableware, inherited by Aaron around 1281, perhaps buried for safekeeping during a period of political unrest.

In 1274, Aaron was accused of carrying away buried treasure from the house of the late Samuel Blund but was cleared at the inquest. The accusation was made by Josce of Warwick, who held an unspecified grudge against him; Josce himself was instead imprisoned after refusing to give pledges of peace to Aaron.

Aaron was an important figure in the building a new synagogue in London. In 1272, the *magna scola*, as the site is called in Christian sources, was closed because the neighbouring Friars of the Sack complained about the disturbance to their own prayers caused by the Jews in the synagogue. However, in September of that year, Henry III gave permission for the London

community to 'construct another synagogue elsewhere, if they wish'. Aaron provided the funds to replace the synagogue south of Cat Street and the various charters confirming this included Edmund Crouchback, the Mayor of London, two Justices of the Jews, and the two sheriffs among the witnesses.

Yet Aaron's royal patron could not protect him from the crown's panic about coin-clipping, and he eventually ended up in the Tower. Sometime after 13 June 1277, Aaron paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Aaron survived the coin-clipping crisis and was eventually released. In 1280, he paid Edward I's queen consort Eleanor of Castile £126 for the books of Oxford Jews condemned in the trials, including books of the Law. He donated these to the synagogue.

In 1281 Aaron gave money to Adam of Fulham, that in turn Adam would pay a Master Ralf, a stonemason, to build a house for Aaron in Cat Street, London. Aaron was still alive in 1284 when he made an acknowledgement to George Foliot quitting him of debt. He had a son called Vives.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 272, iv, p. 181; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 191-92, 231-35; *Select Pleas*, pp. 62-63, 132-33.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; ROYAL PATRON

See also: Josce of Warwick (78)

140. Solomon Bunting AKA Solomon son of Samuel Bunting

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Solomon was a moneylender based in London. He was the son of Samuel Bunting. Solomon appears to have been well connected in the London community, acting as an attorney for the prominent Hagin son of Master Moses in 1278. Sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, Solomon paid the Tower sergeant a fine of 20s on behalf of his son-in-law, for a certain allegation against him.

Solomon was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he and his unnamed brother paid the Tower sergeant a total of 3s 8d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid 2s for respite and 10d because he withdrew. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass imprisonment of Jews for coin clipping which may have been what he was accused of.

Solomon had been released, at least temporarily, in 1278, when he appeared multiple times before the Exchequer of the Jews as a mainpernor, plaintiff, or defendant. However, he was

dead by June/July 1280, when he was described as having been hanged, probably a victim of the coin-clipping trials.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, iv, pp. 16, 171, 181, 182, 189, v, nos 107, 204, 258, 305, 329, 358, 375, 450, 494, 545, 646, 715, 826, vi, no. 645.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Brother of Solomon Bunting (141); Hagin son of Master Moses (63); Meir son-in-law of Bunting (167); Sampson Bunting (90)

141. Brother of Solomon Bunting

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: This unnamed brother of Solomon Bunting was held at the Tower and, sometime after 13 June 1277, he and Solomon paid the sergeant a total of 3s 8d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass imprisonment of Jews for coin clipping which may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 181.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Meir son-in-law of Bunting (167); Sampson Bunting (90); Solomon Bunting (140)

142. Vives le Romonger

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Vives was held at the Tower and paid the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass imprisonment of Jews for coin clipping which may have been what he was accused of. He may have had links to Warwick. He was still alive in June/July 1281 when he was a juror.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 181, ii, pp. 180-81, 213, vi, nos 672, 940, 950, 954, 955, 987, 1039, 1229, 1245.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER; WARWICK

143. Floria of Winchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Floria was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. She paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. She later paid 6d because she incurred a penalty. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 181, 191.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER; WINCHESTER

144. Bonevie of Oxford AKA Bonevie son of Vives

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: See No. 67 above.

145. Moses of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Moses was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 181.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER; WORCESTER

146. Hake le Dewe

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Hake was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of

his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 181.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

147. Isaac of Campden

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Isaac was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. In June 1277, he and another Jew, Meir of Bruges, were accused by Henry Pyle of stealing goods and chattels from him. At first, neither Jew attended the court to answer the charges. In Isaac's case, this was probably because he was still in prison. They did later reach an agreement with Henry to repay him, however. He was still alive in Easter 1281, when Isaac and his wife Floria were accused by John Manyword of unjust detention.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 289-90, iv, p. 181, vi, no. 903.

Keywords: CAMPDEN; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

148. Moses of Hereford AKA Moses son of Hamo of Hereford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Moses was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. He is not to be confused with Moses of Hereford AKA Moses son of Hamo, who died in 1253.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 181; Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 167.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; HEREFORD; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

149. Isaac of Colchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Despite his name, in 1268, Isaac was recorded as residing in Lincoln. He was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 172, iv, p. 182.

Keywords: COLCHESTER; COIN-CLIPPING?; LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER

150. Joy of Lewes

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Joy was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. She and her daughter paid the Tower sergeant 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. Between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, she, her daughter, and Benedict son of Meir paid the sergeant 20s for certain allegations against them. The three would later pay 20s for having aid. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 176, 182, 188.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; LEWES; PRISONER

See also: Daughter of Joy of Lewes (151)

151. Daughter of Joy of Lewes

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: The daughter of Joy of Lewes was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. She and her mother paid the Tower sergeant 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. Between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, she, her mother, and Benedict son of Meir paid the sergeant 20s for certain allegations against them. The three would later pay 20s for having aid. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 176, 182, 188.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; LEWES; PRISONER

See also: Joy of Lewes (150)

152. Son of Josce Caton

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: The son of Josce Caton was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. His father may have also been imprisoned at the Tower, as he later paid the Tower sergeant a fine of 100s for exchanging coin and for respite from imprisonment.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 182, 190.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

153. Cresse of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Cresse was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 12d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He was probably held for coin-clipping, as in May 1278, he and his wife Amice were indicted of coin-clipping and exchanging coins. They paid the king 2 bezants to escape punishment. He must have been indicted a second time, as Cresse was later hanged and a message worth 5 marks that he held was seized by the crown.

Sources: *BIJS III*, p. 54; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 182, v, no. 460.

Keywords: BEDFORD; COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

154. Hagin of the Bridge

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Hagin was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of. He later paid the sergeant 4s to recover a certain charter.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 182.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

155. Elias Fretekat

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Elias was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 182.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

156. Imprisoned Jews keeping a festival

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid the Tower sergeant 40s for permission to celebrate a festival. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 182.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FESTIVAL; GROUP; PRISONER

157. Cok Martin

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Cok was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 182.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

158. Moses of Dartford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Moses was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He was later fined 12d for dicing, perhaps with Josce son of Josce Levere, whose fine for the same is placed just before Moses' in the sergeant's roll, 4s for having an inquisition, and 20d for incurring a penalty. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 182, 185, 191, 193.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

159. Moses Pote

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Moses was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He may have been an elderly prisoner, as a Moses Pote had lent money to a Roger le Hore in 1235.

It is also possible that he was the same individual as Moses Poteman, a Londoner. If so, then Moses survived his imprisonment in the Tower, witnessing a sale of land to the Jewish cemetery in London in 1282/3 and even receiving one such grant on behalf of the community of the Jews of England in 1284/5. He was clearly an important figure in the community. He had died by 1289.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 183, v, no. 885 (xii); London, Goldsmiths' Hall, 1642/B39, ff. 120r-121v.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

160. Belia

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Belia was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when she paid the sergeant 40s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. She may have been Belia the wife of Lombard of Cricklade, who was bailed pending trial in April/May 1277.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 275, iv, p. 183.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Lombard of Cricklade (66)

161. Samuel Cappay

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Samuel was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 183.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

162. Moses Blund

Type: Prisoner

Date: From June 1277

Biography: Moses was the son of Elias Blund (d. 1264) and his wife Flora. The Blunds were a leading family in the London Jewry. Between 1221 and 1242, their wealth accounted for a third to over two-fifths of the community's wealth. In August 1276, the lower rates of tallage that he, Isaac l'Eveske, and Josce son of Isaac had secured for themselves had angered the rest of the London Jewry, such that the king ordered they be protected from arrest until they could answer any charges against them in court.

In June 1277, Moses and Solomon Bunting were imprisoned for claiming that a debt owed by John de Berns and William of Stanstead to the late Elias Blund, belonged to them. Moses later acquitted the debt. However, a later search of the London *archa* in Solomon's presence found that the debt actually belonged to the king as part of the chattels of Elias that forfeited to the crown upon the Jew's death. Solomon was imprisoned in the Tower. Moses was also imprisoned. Though the record of the court case does not specify that he was sent to the Tower, later records show that this was where he was held.

Moses was imprisoned at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 306; *CPREJ*, iii, p. 310, iv, p. 184; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 107, 109, 118-119; *Select Pleas*, p. 88.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221); Aaron I Blund (47); Elias Blund (48); Floria Blund (59); Leo Blund of Milk Street (31); Moses Blund (162); Samuel Blund (49); Wife of Samuel Blund (50); Solomon Bunting (140); Solomon l'Eveske (37)

163. Ursel Brigge

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Ursel was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 66s 8d for leaving prison without permission and 12d for contempt. Between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, he also paid a fine of half a mark for a certain allegation and 66s 8d for trespass and respite of imprisonment (suggesting he may have been a prisoner before 13 June 1277 as well). The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 172, 175, 178, 184.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; ESCAPED; MALE; PRISONER

164. Contessa Cat

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, Contessa and certain unnamed companions were fined 40s by the Tower sergeant for exchanging coin. She was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when she paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. In this period, she and her companions were again fined 40s for exchanging coin. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. She may have been a relative of Abraham Cat and Isaac Cat.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 175, 184, 187.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Abraham Cat (180); Isaac Cat (179)

165. Moses Garon

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Moses was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid a fine of 2s for incurring a penalty, 20d for gates again, 2s for blood, suggesting he may have injured someone in a fight. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 184, 186, 192.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

166. Meir son of Benedict

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Meir was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid ½ mark for respite. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 36, 50, 182, 185.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

167. Meir son-in-law of Bunting

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Meir was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He later paid 12d for the same privilege. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He may be the son-in-law on whose behalf Solomon Bunting paid a fine of 20s for a certain allegation against him sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277. It is possible that he is the same man as Meir son of Jacob, who was imprisoned in the Tower in 1280. Meir son of Jacob did have some links to the Bunting family, once acting with Solomon son of Samuel Bunting in lending money to a Robert of Brotton, clerk of Robert of Bodham.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 137, 171, 186, 189.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Meir son of Jacob (223); Sampson Bunting (90); Solomon Bunting (140)

168. Abraham son-in-law of Aaron

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Abraham was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 186.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

169. Belaset

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Belaset was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when she paid the sergeant 40s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 187.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

170. Abraham Winel

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Abraham was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 187.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

171. Jurnet of Kent AKA Jurnet of Canterbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Jurnet was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid half a mark for respite and 10s for having aid. He had previously paid 20s for having respite of tallage, 4s for having aid, 10s for respite. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He was married to Slema.

Jurnet was executed by 1277/78, and a messuage and a moiety of another messuage that he held in Canterbury was forfeited to the crown and granted to William de Manfield, 'cutter' to Edward I's wife, Queen Eleanor of Castile (perhaps a tailor).

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 97, 181, 184, 187, 191, v, no. 558; London, TNA, C 47/9/50.

Keywords: CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

172. Master Isaac of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: Sometime from 13 June 1277

Biography: Master Isaac was the son of Simeon of London, and brother of Master Moses of London. Both brothers were notable intellectuals in the Jewish community.

By 1267, Isaac was married to Slema, the widow of Isaac, son of Abraham. This was probably Master Isaac's second marriage, as his three sons (Moses, Abraham and Meir) were already financially independent and therefore presumably adults.

He was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, first paying the Tower sergeant 1 mark for a trespass and then 2d for gates, meaning permission to move around the castle precinct. The reason for his imprisonment is unknown, but he may have been held there on suspicion of coin-clipping, as the date coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews on such charges.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 157, iv, pp. 180, 187; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 37, 69, 117.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER; OXFORD; RABBI?

See also: Hagin son of Master Moses (63)

173. Hake son of Rose

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Hake was from Lincoln and was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He was later condemned and probably executed. Simon the chaplain, canon of St Paul's Cathedral, was fined 5 marks for concealing the goods of Aaron Crespin and Hake, both described as condemned.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 187, v, no. 762; London, TNA, E 101/119/12.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER

174. Sampson of Standon

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Sampson was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. Between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1278, he paid a fine of 6s 8d for a certain allegation. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He was still alive in June 1279, when he was a juror in a plea between Joel of Blois and Cresse son of Cresse.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 173, 187; *Select Pleas*, p. 107.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER; STANDON

175. Isaac of Kent

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Isaac was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 50s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He also paid the sergeant 10d for drawing a knife and 12d for dicing. He may have been caught playing dice with Josce le Levere, Josce Levi, Aaron Potage, Poitevin, Abraham of Dorking, Cressandin, and Aronin, who were fined the same amount for dicing. Their fines are listed immediately after Isaac's.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 183, 187.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

176. Elias le Mire

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, Elias paid the Tower sergeant 1 mark for a certain allegation made against him. A merchant from Woodstock later paid the sergeant 71s 10d for recovering certain jewels from Elias. He was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He again paid 1 mark for a certain allegation against him, as well as half a mark for having an inquisition, and 40d from him and his wife for gates again. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-

clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He may have been a relative of Sampson le Mire.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 173, 177, 178, 188, 189, 191.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Sampson le Mire (87); Wife of Elias le Mire (186)

177. Elias son of Chera

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Elias was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He also paid 2s for an amercement. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He cannot have been imprisoned before 20x26 January 1277, when he was acting as a mainpernor for Hagin son of Master Moses.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 98, 189, 190.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

178. Joppe of Marlborough

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Joppe was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 2s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. Between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, he paid the sergeant a fine of 44s 10d for passing clipped halfpennies and 40s after he was accused of exchanging coins. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 174, 176, 189.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; MARLBOROUGH; PRISONER

179. Isaac Cat

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Isaac was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He may have been a relative of Abraham Cat and Contessa Cat.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 190.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Abraham Cat (180); Contessa Cat (164)

180. Abraham Cat

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277 to October/November 1277; June/July 1278

Biography: Sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, Abraham paid the Tower sergeant 2 marks when he was accused of an unspecified trespass, alongside a certain Cressandin who was fined 20s. He may have already been imprisoned in the Tower by this point. He certainly was by sometime from June 1277, when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

In October/November 1277, Abraham and Abraham son of Antera of Canterbury were to be brought before the Justices of the Jews to answer the king and the prior of Barnwell, who had accused them of forging a charter. The sheriffs of London could not find Abraham Cat as he was still held in prison. He was again summoned to answer this charge in June/July 1278. Abraham denied the charges and asked to be judged by a jury of Christians and Jews. He was committed to the Tower of London until then. Abraham may have been a relative of Contessa Cat and Isaac Cat.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 171, 190, v, nos 33, 587.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FRAUD; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Contessa Cat (164); Isaac Cat (179)

181. A Southampton Jew

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unnamed Jew from Southampton paid the Tower sergeant 40d for gates, permission to move about the Tower precinct. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 190.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; PRISONER

182. The community of the Jews of Norwich

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: The community of the Jews of Norwich paid the Tower sergeant 22s for gates, permission to move about the Tower precinct. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 190.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; NORWICH; PRISONER

183. Cresse of Wilton AKA Cresse of Bristol

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Cresse resided in Wilton by 1273 but may have originally been from Bristol. In January/February that year, he had failed to pay his tallage and so his charters were to be withdrawn Wilton *archa* and forfeited to the king. Sometime after 13 June 1277, Cresse paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He was still alive in Easter 1281, when he was a juror in a trial in which several Christians were accused of acquiring nine books and other goods from a condemned Jew, Jacob of Shaston.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 19, iv, p. 191, vi, no. 946.

Keywords: BRISTOL; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER; WILTON

184. Isaac of Thrapston

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Isaac was imprisoned in the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 191.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

185. Josce son of Slema

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Josce was imprisoned in the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, paying the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. He also paid half a mark so that he would not be surety for Jews. Sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, he paid 13s 4d for respite from imprisonment. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 172, 187, 191, v, no. 414.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

186. Wife of Elias le Mire

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: The wife of Elias le Mire was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277, when she and her husband paid the sergeant 40d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 191.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Elias le Mire (176); Sampson le Mire (87)

187. Abraham of Dorking

Type: Prisoner

Date: Sometime after 13 June 1277

Biography: In 1274, Abraham, his wife Rose, and several other Jews were charged for crimes against Juliana, a Jewish convert to Christianity. Juliana accused Abraham and the others of kidnapping her and a Roesia, another convert in her charge. She said that they had been separated from each other and that Roesia's whereabouts were still unknown. Juliana herself was held in the house of the widow Antera, where she wrapped a cord around Juliana's neck and threatened her with hanging unless she renounced her Christian faith. Next, she said she had been carried onto a ship to be transported out of the country. There she was again subject to violence, she said, including attempted rape by a Jew called Salomon. Thinking mistakenly that she was dead, they conspired to throw her overboard. However, rough seas sent the ship back to the port of Sandwich, and Juliana was able to escape. Passing through Canterbury, she said she had obtained a letter from the local Jewish community there, advising the Jews involved to make amends for the crimes against her. Abraham and the others denied all the charges. Juliana asked for 1000 marks in damages. Juliana appeared twice more before the court but eventually chose not to prosecute and was fined for this. The case was probably either settled out of court or was a false charge made as part of an attempt at extortion. The latter is certainly possible as, despite the seriousness of the accusations, the crown showed no interest in pursuing the charges itself, suggesting that there may have been little evidence to support Juliana's story.

Abraham was fined by the Tower sergeant 1 mark for a trespass at some point between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278. During the same period, he was fined 40s for gainsaying (arguing with or contradicting) the sergeant. He also paid £4 for respite of imprisonment, but it is unclear whether he paid to be released or avoid imprisonment altogether.

Abraham was fined again for trespass (1 mark) sometime after 13 June 1277. He was also fined 12d for dicing (gambling), probably alongside Isaac of Kent, Josce le Levere, Josce Levi, Aaron Potage, Poitevin, Cressandin, and Aronin, who were fined the same amount for dicing. Their fines are listed immediately before and after Abraham's. In addition, he paid the sergeant 40s for rescue (of goods), which was either a finder's fee or the price for returning confiscated belongings to him. His wife paid the sergeant 10s for 'aid' of some kind. Once again, Abraham paid £4 for respite of imprisonment. During the same period, he was fined 12d for several unspecified crimes. He was in prison again when he paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning freedom to walk around the Tower precincts during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what he was accused of.

He was accused of murdering Matthew de Hekham in 1278 but was found not guilty. For details of the case, see No. 188 below.

Sometime between 1282 and 1289 a Thomas of Dunstable was fined £20 for concealing the chattels of Abraham of Dorking, Benedict, son of Isaac of Warwick, and Josce of Bedford, all described as condemned Jews, suggesting that Abraham had been executed, probably as part of the coin-clipping crisis.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (Philadelphia, 2021), p. 136; *CPREJ*, ii, pp. 209-10, iv, pp. 173, 175, 176, 179, 183, 185, 188, 191-92; London, TNA, E 101/119/12.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; DORKING; EXECUTED?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Hake of Canterbury (189)

188. Isaac of Warwick

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Isaac was, despite his name, a Londoner. He was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 10d for an amercement, 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day, and 10 marks for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. Between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, he paid the sergeant 20s for an allegation against him regarding lead. Between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, he paid 10 marks for having aid.

Isaac was condemned and probably executed during the coin-clipping trials. His house in London, worth 6½ marks, was forfeited to the crown and granted to a Richard le Palmer of London in 1277/78.

He was married to an Ivetta. They had a son, Benedict, who was also condemned and likely executed during the coin-clipping trials. Between 1282 and 1289, a Christian, Thomas of Dunstable, was fined £20 for concealing the chattels of Benedict, Josce of Bedford, and Abraham of Dorking, described as condemned Jews.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 171, 177, 189, 192; London, TNA, C 47/9/50, E 101/119/12; *Select Pleas*, p. 37.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; WARWICK

189. Hake of Canterbury AKA Isaac of Canterbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Hake was held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. He paid the Tower sergeant 21d for an amercement, 10s 8d for a trespass, and 50s for respite of imprisonment. He later paid 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

A coroner's inquest in 1278 into the death of a Matthew de Hekham ruled that Matthew was attacked on 27 February 1278 by three Jews, Abraham of Dorking, Isaac of Canterbury (called Hake in later documents), and Cresse son of Isaac de Linton, halfway between Ironmonger Lane and the Guildhall. They attacked him and Hake stabbed Matthew in the groin with an anelace (a type of dagger), after which the three Jews fled. Later court documents accuse only Hake and Abraham of the murder. Hake was one of the many variants of the name Yitzchak (Isaac) used in Christian documents. Jurors in the London eyre of 1321 claimed that Hake instead stabbed Matthew beneath his right shoulder and that he died five days later. Neither account seems entirely accurate, as Matthew was dead by 13 March, according to the coroner's inquest, which was neither three weeks nor five days after 27 February.

He was imprisoned again by June/July 1278, though this does not seem to have been in the Tower. He and Abraham of Dorking were being held on charges of murdering a Matthew de Okham (presumably the same as the Matthew de Hekham in 1276) in the street of St Lawrence Jewry, London. They had been 'placed with the bailiff' rather than the Constable, and so were probably held in one of the city's jails instead of the Tower. They denied the charges and a jury of Christians and Jews was summoned. The jury testified that neither Jew killed Matthew but that they did not know who did. They said that Matthew had walked through the Jewry alone at night and was set upon, wounded, and died some three weeks later. Before he died, he was repeatedly asked by his friends and neighbours if he knew who attacked him, but he said he did not. Hake and Abraham were then set free.

In June 1279, the Constable of the Tower was to be ordered to arrest Hake and Jurnet son of Abraham to respond to the plea of Thomas of St Michael, who claimed that the two Jews had attacked and beat him, but the order was not given nor was any writ to the Constable returned. The two parties later reached an agreement that the Jews would pay Thomas 1 mark in return for him forgiving any trespasses they may have committed against him.

Sources: *Calendar of Letter-books of the City of London: B: 1275-1312*, ed. Reginald R. Sharpe (London, 1900), pp. 272-73; *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 185, 187-88, 192, v, nos 535, 670, 686, vi, nos 99, 106; Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Crime and Jews in Late Thirteenth-Century England: Some Cases and Comments', *Hebrew Union College Journal*, 55 (1984), pp. 95-157, at 105; *Select Pleas*, pp. 105-106.

Keywords: CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Abraham of Dorking (187); Isaac of Canterbury (104)

190. The community of the Jews of London

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: The community of the Jews of London paid the Tower sergeant £17 9s for gates, permission to move about the Tower precinct. The sum suggests this was a large group of Jews. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 192.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; LONDON; PRISONER

191. Four Jews keeping Rosh Hashanah

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Four unnamed Jews paid the Tower sergeant 53s 4d so that they could celebrate Rosh Hashanah (New Year). The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 192.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FESTIVAL; GROUP; PRISONER

192. Five Jews of Canterbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Five Jews from Canterbury paid the Tower sergeant 60s for easy imprisonment. What easy imprisonment was is not specified but could have meant anything from a better cell to freedom to move around the Tower or even leave it during the day. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 192.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

193. Abraham son of Hagin

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Abraham was from Berkhamsted. Sometime after 13 June 1277, Abraham was fined 10s by the Tower sergeant for fighting in prison. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. He was probably one of the many Jews executed in the coin-clipping trials. He had certainly been executed by June/July 1281, when he was described as a 'condemned Jew' and his debts had been forfeited to the crown.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 192.

Keywords: BERKHAMSTED; COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED; MALE; PRISONER

194. Daughter of Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Sometime after 13 June 1277, this unnamed woman paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. She appears in the sergeant's roll immediately before Leo son-in-law of Isaac, which may have been the same man described as Leo son-in-law of Isaac of Warwick. This Isaac may have been her father. However, without a more precise name, it has not been possible to identify this woman with certainty.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Isaac of Warwick (188); Leo son-in-law of Isaac (195); Wife of Isaac (196)

195. Leo son-in-law of Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Leo may have been the Leo son-in-law of Isaac of Warwick who paid the Tower sergeant 20s after he was charged with an allegation concerning lead sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277. Isaac was also charged with the same and paid the same fine. Sometime after 13 June 1277, Leo paid the sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, pp. 171, 193.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Daughter of Isaac (194); Isaac of Warwick (188); Wife of Isaac (196)

196. Wife of Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Sometime after 13 June 1277, this unnamed woman paid the Tower sergeant 20d for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of her imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what she was accused of. She appears in the sergeant's roll immediately after Leo son-in-law of Isaac, which may have been the same man described as earlier in the roll as Leo son-in-law of Isaac of Warwick. This Isaac may have been her husband. There were two Isaac of Warwick's in this period, one of London and the other of Norwich. The London Isaac's wife was called Ivetta and the Norwich Isaac's wife was called Colum. It is unclear which individual this woman was.

Sources: Adrienne Williams Boyarin, *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess* (Philadelphia, 2021), p. 125; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193, v, no. 431.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; PRISONER

See also: Daughter of Isaac (194); Isaac of Warwick (188); Leo son-in-law of Isaac (195)

197. Gamaliel le Prestre

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Gamaliel and his wife Lewa were Londoners held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. They paid the Tower sergeant 4s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass

incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what they were accused of. In October/November 1278, the couple appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer a plea by William of Avon that they had received certain goods that had been stolen from him. £10 of his goods and chattels held at the house of Simon of Stanbridge had been taken by thieves, costing William £20. Gamaliel and Lewa denied the theft and receiving stolen goods. A jury of Jews and Christians was summoned, with the Constable of the Tower of London ordered to find twelve Jews for this. When the parties and the jury next came to court, William suddenly withdrew his plea against Gamaliel and Lewa. He was then sent to prison for wasting the court's time. 'Le prestre' (the priest) suggests that Gamaliel may have been an important figure in the London community. Christian scribes often tried to fit Jewish offices into a Christian context and so his title may not have necessarily meant that he was a kohen (priest), a group whose prominence had long since been supplanted by the rabbis. He was probably not a rabbi, as they were often referred to in Christian sources as 'magister' (master). He may have been a hazzan or cantor, charged with leading the congregation in singing and prayer.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193, v, no. 769; Judith K. Jarvis, Susan L. Levin, Donald N. Yates, *Book of Jewish and Crypto-Jewish Surnames* (2018), p. 71.

Keywords: CANTOR; COIN-CLIPPING?; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Lewa (198)

198. Lewa

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Lewa and her husband Gamaliel were Londoners held at the Tower sometime after 13 June 1277. They paid the Tower sergeant 4s for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct during the day. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what they were accused of. In October/November 1278, the couple appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer a plea by William of Avon that they had received certain goods that had been stolen from him. £10 of his goods and chattels held at the house of Simon of Stanbridge had been taken by thieves, costing William £20. Gamaliel and Lewa denied the theft and receiving stolen goods. A jury of Jews and Christians was summoned, with the Constable of the Tower of London ordered to find twelve Jews for this. When the parties and the jury next came to court, William suddenly withdrew his plea against Gamaliel and Lewa. He was then sent to prison for wasting the court's time.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193, v, no. 769.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER

See also: Gamaliel le Prestre (197)

199. Jews in the tiled stable

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews in the tiled stable paid the Tower sergeant 53s 4d so that they could be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

200. Jews of Stamford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Stamford paid the Tower sergeant 50s so that they could be by themselves. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; STAMFORD

201. Twelve Jews acting as servants

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Twelve unnamed Jews paid the Tower sergeant 40s so that they could be servants to prisoners. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

202. Two York Jews

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Two unnamed Jews from York paid the Tower sergeant 4s so that they could be outside on the Sabbath. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; YORK

203. Three York Jews

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Three unnamed Jews from York paid the Tower sergeant 6s so that they could be at large, probably meaning permission to leave move about the Tower precinct during the day, or perhaps to leave the site entirely. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; YORK

204. Jews of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Oxford paid the Tower sergeant 2 marks. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; OXFORD; PRISONER

205. Jews of Hereford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Hereford paid the Tower sergeant 50s. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; HEREFORD; PRISONER

206. Jews of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Bedford paid the Tower sergeant half a mark. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 193.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; BEDFORD; PRISONER

207. Jews of Lincoln

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews from Lincoln paid the Tower sergeant 2 marks. The sergeant's roll does not specify for what reason. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 194.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; LINCOLN; PRISONER

208. Two Jews of York

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: Two unnamed Jews from York paid the Tower sergeant half a mark so that they could be mainprised (bailed). The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 194.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER; YORK

209. Several Jews fettered individually

Type: Prisoner

Date: From 13 June 1277

Biography: An unspecified number of Jews paid the Tower sergeant 64s so that they could be fettered individually. The date of their imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping and this may have been what they were accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iv, p. 194.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

210. Josce of Wallingford AKA Josce of Germany AKA Rabbi Joseph ben Avraham of Germany

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. 1278?

Biography: A German rabbi, Josce resided in Southampton, paying in 1274, with Solomon son of Solomon, 4 bezants for permission to live there. He later moved to Wallingford. He served on a commission of inquiry in London in 1275. He also practiced mysticism. Along with the London rabbi Elias son of Master Moses, Josce taught a student called Marcus a magical formula to recite over a plant to discover the answers to questions.

In January/February 1278, Josce was arrested along with his wife Belasez and a Contessa of Oxford. All three Jews were accused of coin-clipping. In May that year, Josce was charged with entering the house of Peter of Witton in Wallingford and carrying away £10-worth of goods, but the jurors testified that Josce was innocent. Instead, Peter's wife had pawned certain goods to Josce without her husband's knowledge. Josce was ordered to repay Peter and was to

be imprisoned until he could find guarantees for this. In June/July, Peter again sued Josce on the same charges.

We know from a later court case that Josce was eventually imprisoned in the Tower, though it is unclear if this was for the accusation of coin-clipping or his debt to Peter of Witton. In 1279, a Roger of Weymouth was tried on a charge of stealing a mazer cup (a wooden drinking bowl). He claimed that it had been given to him by Josce of Wallingford for the services Roger did him while Josce was held at the Tower. But when Josce was brought to court and Roger failed to recognise him, Roger was sent to the pillory.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 173, v, nos 272, 406; London, TNA, JUST 3/35B, m. 49; Jonathan Romain, 'River Jews: medieval Jews along the Thames as a microcosm of Anglo-Jewry', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 43 (2011), pp. 21-42 at 34; Cecil Roth, 'Elijah of London: The Most Illustrious English Jew of the Middle Ages', *Transactions (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 15 (1939-1945), pp. 29-62 at 52-53.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; GERMANY; MALE; PRISONER; RABBI; THEFT?; WALLINGFORD

211. Isaac de Poulet the Elder

Type: Prisoner

Date: 1278

Biography: Isaac was a moneylender based in Oxford. His wife, Comitissa, was a successful businesswoman in her own right. He had a son, also named Isaac.

Isaac was imprisoned in 1252 for failing to pay his tallage but paid 10 talents for his release. In 1274, Isaac, his wife Comitissa, and Hakin le Petit were imprisoned for receiving a stolen cup; charges were not pressed but they paid two marks for their release. He was arrested on coin-clipping charges in 1278, along with many other members of the Jewish community. There is no record of his trial, but there is a reference to his execution at the Tower shortly after. His property, including his house in the Oxford Jewry, was forfeit to the Crown.

Sources: Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 78-79.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED; MALE; OXFORD; PRISONER; HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

See also: Isaac de Poulet the Younger (235)

212. Manasser son of Aaron

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 18 January 1278

Biography: Manasser was a Londoner and moneylender. He was one of the two Jewish chirographers of the London *archa* until 1267, when he was replaced by Aaron Crespin.

Sometime between 20 January 1275 and 8 June 1277, Manasser paid the Tower sergeant a fine of £4 for defaming Adam de Kandeys.

Manasser was imprisoned by 18 January 1278, when the king ordered his release from the Tower on bail pending trial. He had been arrested by the Constable on charges of coin-clipping. The same day, the king also ordered an inquiry into Manasser's claim that some clipped coin, with the forceps used to clip it, was tied up in a cloth and thrown onto the top of his house in London to incriminate him. This was the evidence on which he was imprisoned, and he asked for an inquiry to find out who was guilty of clipping the coin and placing it there.

It is unknown if the investigation did find evidence that Manasser was framed or not, but he did manage to survive the coin-clipping crisis. However, his nephew, Benedict son of Cok, did not. Benedict was executed and his house in London forfeited to the crown. Manasser bought the house for 2½ marks, perhaps to provide for his nephew's family, who would be left destitute by Benedict's forfeiture.

After the 1290 Expulsion, Manasser's houses in London, worth £6 30s 4d, were granted to Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 437; *CPR*, 1272-81, p. 285; Joe Hillaby, 'London: the 13th-century Jewry revisited', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 32 (1990-92), pp. 89-158, at 131; London, TNA, C 47/9/50, C 67/4, m. 2.

Keywords: CHIROGRAPHER; COIN-CLIPPING; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict son of Cok (76)

213. Josce son of Deulesant

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1278

Biography: Josce was summoned to appear before the Exchequer of the Jews in June/July 1278, as he was one of the witnesses listed on a starr that was the subject of a court case. The sheriff reported that he and the other two requested witnesses, Abraham son of Isaac and Benedict of Bedford, could not come as they were imprisoned in the Tower. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of. It is unclear when he was imprisoned, but it was after April/May 1277, when he was a mainpernor for Moses of Kent.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 244, v, no. 530.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford (218); Abraham son of Isaac (214)

214. Abraham son of Isaac

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1278

Biography: Abraham lived in Gloucester and Lincoln. He was summoned to appear before the Exchequer of the Jews in June/July 1278, as he was one of the witnesses listed on a starr that was the subject of a court case. The sheriff reported that he and the other two requested witnesses, Josce son of Deulesant and Benedict of Bedford, could not come as they were imprisoned in the Tower. The date of his imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews for coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

Sources: *CPREJ*, i, p. 157, iii, p. 16, v, no. 530.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; GLOUCESTER; LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford (218); Josce son of Deulesant (213)

215. Henry of Winchester AKA Henry de Dernegate

Type: Staff

Date: From August 1278

Biography: Henry of Winchester was a convert from Judaism. Unfortunately, his pre-conversion identity is unknown. Henry III himself participated in the conversion, giving his own name to the new convert and knighting him. The king granted him a large stipend of 12d a day for life. In contrast, the male residents of the *Domus Conversorum* received 10d a week. Henry was employed at the Exchequer of the Jews as a notary clerk, writing Hebrew inscriptions, he also bought and sold bonds, often collaborating with a Jew called Moses de Clare. He also traded in wool and was licenced to export 400 sacks in June 1273. He was appointed to inspect the *archae* of Cambridge, Canterbury, Colchester, Norwich, and Sudbury alongside George of Dover in 1261. In 1270, Henry was listed as one of the 25 guardians and protectors of the Jews of Winchester. He probably resided in Durngate, a suburb around the north-east gate of the city.

In 1278, Henry was twice arrested and imprisoned on suspicion of coin-clipping while he was travelling the country buying up 3080 lb of fused silver. However, the evidence suggests that this was part of a sting operation by the crown and Henry was securing evidence for the trials of coin-clippers. His expenses during his imprisonment by the Constable of Bristol Castle were paid by order of the king, while a court case from 1279 records that his arrest in Bury St Edmunds in March 1278 impeded the 'special business' that he was then on for the king. The

Bristol expenses are listed alongside an entry for ‘gifts and bribes given both to Christians and Jews to convict them of exchanging’ coin-clippings.

Edward I tried to give Henry the ‘power of testimony or record’ in the coin-clipping trials in early 1279, likely due to his involvement in the investigations into coin-clippers, but Thomas de Cantilupe, bishop of Hereford, complained that a convert should not have the power of life and death over Christians. The bishop threatened to resign, and Edward revoked Henry’s appointment. In August 1278, the king ordered Anthony Bek, Constable of the Tower of London, to assign a suitable house at the Tower to Henry and his household that he could use for as long as Bek required it for him to do his service to the king. The timing of this order suggests it was related to Henry’s investigation of coin-clipping, perhaps storing the clipped coins and other evidence at the Tower or interrogating the Jews already held prisoner there.

He fell from grace in July 1279, when he was arrested and accused of buying the goods of deceased Jews, including clothes, furs, Christian and Hebrew books, copper lamps, and silk girdles to sell in England and overseas. He was fined 1000 marks (£666 13s 4d) for concealing the goods of his rival Benedict of Winchester, who had been executed in the coin-clipping trials. By March 1281, he had been imprisoned in Winchester for failure to pay his fine. The sheriff was to release him on bail if Henry could find twelve mainpernors and agreed to pay the fine in two instalments. In 1287, he still owed the king 400 marks.

Sources: Paul Brand, ‘Jews and the Law’, *The English Historical Review*, 115:464 (Nov., 2000), pp. 1138-58, at 1148-53; ‘Conversion’, pp. 276-77; *CPR*, 1272-81, p. 276; Lauren Fogle, *The King’s Converts: Jewish Conversion in Medieval London* (London, 2019), pp. 55-58; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 125-26.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; CONVERT; KNIGHT; MALE; STAFF; WINCHESTER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221)

216. Jews of Bristol

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. December 1278

Biography: In December 1278, the constable of Bristol Castle was ordered to take all the clipped plates, forceps, and other evidence relating to the recent arrest of Jews at Bristol on charges of coin-clipping, now imprisoned in the Tower, and send them to London. An undated petition of Edward I’s reign is probably linked to this case. In the document, the mayor and commons of Bristol ask that the city’s Jews held at the Tower be returned to them for judgement, as the city’s liberties mean that no residents should be impleaded outside Bristol.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 517; London, TNA, SC 8/275/13721.

Keywords: ANONYMOUS; COIN-CLIPPING?; GROUP; PRISONER

217. 600 Jews held at the Tower

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. November 1278-November 1279

Biography: In 1278-79, the Constable of the Tower paid thirty foot-sergeants £31 11s for 140 days guarding 600 Jewish prisoners held at the Tower on charges relating to the king's coinage. Almost 300 Jews were later executed in London on this charge, with different sources giving the number as 267, 280, or 293.

Sources: Hillaby and Hillaby, p. 106; London, TNA, E 352/74, m. 1d.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED; GROUP; MALE; PRISONER

218. Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: c. June 1277 to at least late June 1278; May 1283 to May 1285

Biography: Benedict is first recorded being linked to the Tower in 1275x1277 when he paid the Tower sergeant a fine of 66s 8d after being accused of passing light halfpennies. He was first imprisoned in the Tower by at least June 1277, when he paid 4s to the sergeant for gates, meaning permission to move around the Tower precinct. He was recorded as a prisoner there again in late June 1278, when he was called as one of three Jewish witnesses in a court case between John son of William of Horseheath and Josce Grubbe, son of Sampson of Northampton. The sheriff reported that the three men could not come as they were imprisoned in the Tower. The date of this initial imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews on charges of coin-clipping.

Benedict, alongside his daughter Pucella and his brother Jacob, later converted to Christianity but returned to Judaism by 1282, when Archbishop Peckham asked the king that all three be arrested as lapsed converts. It is possible that Benedict converted while imprisoned at the Tower, a method that had saved Jews from execution in the past.

Benedict's second incarceration came after he was arrested in Bedford, alongside his brother Jacob of Bedford and Josce Batecock, both Jews, and William le Gaoler, charged with robbing foreign merchants in or near the city. This was probably linked to the commission of oyer and terminer in July 1283 to investigate the robberies of Hollander merchants between Wardon and Bedford. The four men were brought to the Tower where they were put on trial there on 31st May 1283.

Benedict and his accomplices were accused of stealing forty marks from certain foreign merchants. They confessed, claiming that the merchants had offered to buy plates fused from coin-clippings. The four men had no such plates, yet took the money anyway, receiving forty

marks, a further 17 marks, and a written obligation for 30 sacks of wool from the merchants Bonin de la Motte and Jakemin. They divided the money among themselves, giving some to some servants who helped them and some to bailiffs and other men. All four men were sentenced to imprisonment in the Tower. In May 1285, a royal writ ordered Benedict's release from prison but banned him from visiting the county of York. He was the son of Pictavin of Bedford.

Sources: *CPR*, 1281-92, p. 98; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 190; *CPREJ*, v, no. 530; *King's Converts*, pp. 30-31; *Select Pleas*, pp. 125-27.

Keywords: BEDFORD; CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; COIN-CLIPPING; CONVERT; FRAUD; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Abraham son of Isaac (214); Bella of Bedford (69); Jacob of Bedford (232); Josce Batecock (233); Josce son of Deulesant (213)

219. Hagin son of Benedict

Type: Prisoner

Date: By January/February 1279

Biography: Hagin son of Benedict was a moneylender based in Lincoln.

Hagin was imprisoned in the Tower by January/February 1279. After several failed attempts, the sheriff of Lincoln was ordered to levy £10 from Hagin's goods to pay the prior of Thurgarton, after the prior had successfully sued Hagin in the Exchequer of the Jews in May the previous year. This time the sheriff reported that he could not carry out his orders as Hagin was imprisoned in the Tower of London on the king's order. His imprisonment coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews on charges of coin-clipping, and this may have been what he was accused of.

He was probably imprisoned sometime after October/November 1278, when he came to the Exchequer of the Jews to acknowledge a starr that he had acquitted and pardoned.

After the 1290 Expulsion, Hagin's houses in St Martin parish, Lincoln, were granted to Robert le Veriur of Lincoln.

Sources: *CPREJ*, ii, p. 47, iii, pp. 181, 250, 251, iv, pp. 89, 109, v, nos 5, 75, 180, 195, 199, 239, 242, 246-47, 350, 370-71, 544, 559, 631, 730, 761, 872, 911, 944, 957; London, TNA, C 67/4, m. 2.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; LINCOLN; MALE; PRISONER

220. Josce le Jeofne

Type: Prisoner

Date: By January/February 1279

Biography: Josce was the son of Leo l'Eveske, a prominent member of the York Jewry. He was also a nephew of Aaron of York, the wealthiest Jew in thirteenth-century England and Archpresbyter of the Jews from 1236 to 1243. He had a brother, Samuel, whom he fell out with in a dispute over 60 marks and a horse. These family connections meant that he was part of the York delegation to the Worcester 'parliament' of 1241, alongside his father, uncle, and cousin. In 1275, he was to be imprisoned for his tallage arrears, but it is not clear if this was to be in the Tower.

Josce was later imprisoned in the Tower by January/February 1279, when he failed to appear in court to answer a plea of acquittance of debt by Richard de Murers. The sheriff reported that Josce was held at the Tower and so unable to attend. The reason for his imprisonment is unknown, but he may have been held there on suspicion of coin-clipping, as the date coincides with the mass incarceration of England's Jews on such charges.

Josce and his son Aaron were hanged in 1279. His houses in Koninstreet, York, were granted to William of Hamilton, king's clerk, in May 1280.

Sources: *CChR*, 1257-1300, p. 222; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 79, v, no. 937; R. B. Dobson, 'The Decline and Expulsion of the Medieval Jews of York', *Transactions and Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 26 (1974-78), pp. 34-52, at 42; Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 427, 429; London, TNA, E 9/47.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING?; EXECUTED; MALE; PRISONER; YORK

221. Benedict of Winchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 23 January 1279

Biography: Benedict was a leading businessman with interests in Winchester, Southampton, London, Bristol, Canterbury and York. He was born into a prominent Jewish family, the son of Licoricia and her first husband Abraham. Benedict married Flora, daughter of Aaron I Blund, after the death of his first wife, Belaset (d. after 1267). He had a son, Lombard, who joined the family business, and was with his father when they were 'unlawfully ejected' from their Southampton house and warehouse in 1273. Another son, Aaron, became one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Canterbury *archa*. He had at least three more children, Abraham, Belaset, and Cok. Abraham was imprisoned in the Tower for murder in 1281. Benedict also had a brother, Cokerel; they both served as pledges for the taxes owed by the Jewish community in July and October 1255.

Benedict benefitted from a relationship with the 24 'sworn men of the Old Usages of the City of Winchester', who had been given guardianship of the Jews. In 1268, he was received into the merchant guild under the leadership of Simon Draper, city mayor and leader of the 'sworn men'. This was violently opposed by a large antisemitic popular movement in the city. Until 1273, he also served as one of the two Jewish chirographers of the Winchester *archa*, but he left the office because he could no longer fulfil it as he lived in London. He was replaced in the role by his son Lombard.

Eleanor of Castile, impressed by Benedict's talents, was able to convince Henry III that Benedict's outstanding debts should be free from interference for a decade in 1269.

From December 1270, Benedict's Winchester residence was in Durngate, in the northeast of the city, far away from the Jewry. By this time he also had properties in Bristol, York and London. He enjoyed the lifestyle of a wealthy merchant, despite the antisemitic opposition he faced.

In 1270, Benedict, accused by the crown of removing charters from the *archa* without the permission of the king or the justices, was fined 12 gold bezants. Tensions between the citizens of Winchester and Benedict in that year led to Henry III granting the Jews his special protection and he appointed 25 named guardians.

He seems to have had a good relationship with at least some of the Tower's officials. In 1274, Benedict was one of the mainpernors for John of Olneye, outer subconstable, and Simon Kylpel, inner subconstable.

On the death of his second wife Flora, Benedict had trouble securing her assets and those of her first husband, Solomon l'Eveske. It was Eleanor of Castile (now queen following the accession of her husband Edward I) who was eventually able to help him, granting him the property and debts of both Flora and Solomon. By 1276 he had replaced Jacob of Oxford as the keeper of the queen's gold.

Sometime between 6 June 1277 and 25 December 1278, the Tower sergeant was paid 13s 4d 'from the Tower of Benedict of Winchester', suggesting that he either had a regular residence there as an important member of the community, or was imprisoned there. If so, he received better treatment than those Jews who were held in stables, cellars, or the elephant-house, perhaps reflecting Benedict's royal patronage. He was certainly imprisoned in the Tower by January 1279 and charged with coin-clipping. The abbot of Waverly was given custody of his lands and possessions, worth £269 14s 13½d, until a verdict could be reached. Benedict had been found guilty and executed by June/July 1279, when his son Lombard was also reported as dead. Lombard was probably another victim of the coin-clipping trials. There was a Lombard held at the Tower in 1277/78 who may have been the same man.

Benedict's goods were seized and sold, earning the crown £15 15s 9d from 23 gold brooches, 99 gold rings, 2 gold seals with gold weighing 52s 7½d, a further £20 10s 11d from 6 silver cups with feet, 8 silver cups without feet, a silver goblet, 2 silver basins, 165 silver spoons, 3 large silver spoons, 1 silver and horn penner (pen case), a silver key, a girdle of silver thread, a silver brooch, 13 silver rings, a silver saltcellar, 41 *tournois* (French coins), and silver

weighing £23 20d. from 23 silk girdles and 7 leather and silver girdles went for 77s, whilst 3 old chests and an ink-horn were sold for 7s 4d. Another 26s 8d was from 2 gold brooches, 5 gold rings, and a silver cup. £6 1 mark came from a house of Benedict, and a further £207 7s 8d from the rest of his houses. In total, Benedict's possessions were worth almost £300, over £200,000 today.

Henry of Winchester AKA Henry de Dernegate, a Christian convert involved in the investigations into coin-clipping and Benedict's rival, was fined 1000 marks and imprisoned in Winchester for keeping some of Benedict's goods for himself.

Sources: Michael Adler, 'Inventory of the Property of the Condemned Jews (1285): Part of a Pipe Roll in the Public Record Office', *Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, 2 (1935), pp. 56-71, at 59-60; Suzanne Bartlet, *Licoricia of Winchester: Marriage, Motherhood and Murder in the Anglo-Jewish Community* (London, 2009); Hillaby and Hillaby, pp. 395-98; *CPREJ*, ii, p. 108, iii, p. 187, iv, p. 178, vi, nos 91, 1223.

Keywords: COIN-CLIPPING; EXECUTED; GUILD MEMBER; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; ROYAL PATRON, WINCHESTER

See also: Henry of Winchester AKA Henry de Dernegate (215); Licoricia of Winchester (39); Lombard (112)

222. Henna AKA Henna Capion

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1280

Biography: In May/June 1280, Henna was accused by Pontius de la More, merchant, of unlawfully detaining a silver pitcher and a silver cup worth £4 which had been a pledge. As he no longer owed her anything, he said the items should be returned. Henna came and said that she received the said jewels from him at the time of the arrest of the Jews, presumably meaning the mass arrest of Jews on charges of coin-clipping in the late 1270s. She gave the cup and 8 marks to Meir, nephew of Belassez AKA Meir son of Jacob, and 2 marks and the pitcher to Cressandin son of Leo, which he demanded from her, saying that his late brother Jahu, Henna's husband who had been executed for coin-clipping, held them as a pledge for a loan of 15 marks to Cressandin. Cressandin was imprisoned and Meir was summoned. Henna also said that a Peter of the Chamber received 8 marks from Jahu before the coin-clipping arrests.

When Meir appeared before the court, he was interrogated about the 12 marks (£8) of chattels, 6 marks (£4) of debts, the silver cup, a 'cammelto' mantle, and a distaff (an item used for a spinning wheel). Pontius claimed that the total loss to himself was 20 marks. Meir said that he had the 12 marks (£8) from Jahu, 6 marks (£4) of debt were acquired after Jahu died, and he never received the cup, mantle or distaff from Henna. Meir was imprisoned in the Tower until he could satisfy the king. He was only released after promising to transfer his debts to the king.

Henna was imprisoned in the Tower in June/July 1280 for concealing the goods of her late husband. Meir was again summoned to answer the king and Henna in a joint plea of unlawful detention. Henna had received 28 marks in pledge from Pontius de la More that, as property of Capion, should have been forfeited to the king when he was condemned for coin-clipping. Meir was accused of receiving some of this money from Henna. He came and acknowledged that he received 10 marks from Henna and no more. He said he had used it to support the sons of Capion. A jury found them both guilty and Meir and Henna were committed to the Tower.

Sources: *CPREJ*, vi, nos 487, 488, 676, 683, 737.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER

See also: Capion (88); Meir son of Jacob (223)

[223. Meir son of Jacob AKA Meiroth nephew of Belassez](#)

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1280

Biography: The son of Jacob of York and the nephew of Belassez, Meir was a Londoner and moneylender. He was twice imprisoned in the Tower in June/July 1280 for concealing the goods of Jahu the Jew/Elias Capion, husband of Henna. Capion had been executed for coin-clipping. For details of the case, see No. 221 above.

It is possible that he is the same Meir son-in-law of Bunting who was imprisoned in the Tower in 1277. Meir son of Jacob did have some links to the Bunting family, once acting with Solomon son of Samuel Bunting in lending money to a Robert of Brotton, clerk of Robert of Bodham.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, pp. 73, 170, iv, p. 137, vi, nos 139, 487, 676, 683, 737.

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Capion (88); Henna AKA Henna Capion (222); Meir son-in-law of Bunting (167); Solomon Bunting (140)

[224. Samuel son of Maunsell](#)

Type: Prisoner

Date: Before July 1280

Biography: Samuel was imprisoned in the Tower of London, accused of coin-clipping. He refused to submit to a jury and had no means to pay for his freedom, so he was banished from England. In July 1280, he had found friends to offer the king half a gold mark so that he could return. He was then given permission to come back to the country.

Sources: *CFR*, 1272-1307, p. 131.

Keywords: ABJURED; COIN-CLIPPING; MALE; PRISONER

225. Henna wife of Jacob of Oxford

Type: Prisoner

Date: By March 1281

Biography: Henna was imprisoned in the Tower by March 1281, when the king ordered that she be released on bail to two Oxford Jews to stand trial at a later date. She was accused of unspecified trespasses. She may have been the Henna of Oxford who paid the Tower sergeant 1 mark sometime after 13 June 1277 for having an inquisition. She had links to both London and Oxford.

Sources: *CCR*, 1272-79, p. 387, 1279-88, pp. 78-79; *CPREJ*, iv, p. 189.

Keywords: CHARGE UNKNOWN; FEMALE; LONDON; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Anonymous son of Jacob of Oxford (91); Jacob of Oxford (85)

226. Abraham son of Benedict of Winchester

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1281

Biography: Abraham was the son of the wealthy businessman Benedict of Winchester. Like his father, he also went into moneylending, particularly in Hampshire and London. He seems to have performed at least some royal duties. In 1276, he was essoined because he was 'on the king's service'. He may have been the Abraham son of Benedict who paid the Tower sergeant 4s sometime after 13 June 1277 for having aid. That same year, Abraham was attacked and robbed. He was so badly injured that it was feared he might die. In October, the king ordered a commission to investigate the assault.

In 1280, Abraham was accused of murdering a young man called Gascon de Bayern. He and his household were being entertained at the house of Abraham's father Benedict, when an argument broke out between Abraham and Gascon and he killed him. It was ordered that Abraham be arrested and imprisoned until the case could be heard by the itinerant judges at Wilton that year.

The Hampshire and Wiltshire eyre did discuss Abraham, but not in regard to the supposed murder. Jurors reporting on the murder of Licoricia of Winchester in 1277 said that Abraham, his brother Lombard, and the Christians William of Chichester and Thomas de la Mare had entered Licoricia's house after her death, breaking into the coffers and strongboxes there and

carrying off her treasure. Abraham, William, and Thomas were to be arrested (Lombard had been executed earlier in 1279), but the three had fled. They were outlawed and their goods seized.

In May/June 1280, he appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews to answer the plea of Matilda Pruet of Winchester. She accused Abraham of trespass and robbery, saying that on 31 May 1278, she had gone into Fleshmonger Street, opposite the house of Isaac le Lung, Jew, and bought some bread and other food about the third hour of the day (probably meaning three hours after dawn). Abraham then came and attacked her, seized her by the shoulders, beat her, and knocked her to the ground. He then took a wild ox's horn from her, worth 1 mark, which Richard de Bosco had given Matilda to sell. She claimed £100 in damages.

Abraham denied the charges and used legal technicalities to have Matilda's claim dismissed, saying that he did not have to answer her charges as she had not specified whether he had beaten her with sticks or with arms, and that the property he supposedly stole was not her own. He asked that the case be dismissed. Matilda's case was, but Abraham was still to be put on trial for the robbery. A jury was to be summoned but no further record of the case survives.

By June/July 1281, Abraham was imprisoned in the Tower, accused of murdering an unnamed man in Winchester. He had been indicted before the Winchester coroners but as he failed to appear he was outlawed, so he turned himself in at the Tower. He was bailed by four Londoners, Cresse son of Floria, Moses son of Jacob, Isaac of Warwick, and Jurnet son of Abraham, indicating his ties to the city.

Sources: *CPR*, 1272-81, p. 245; *CPREJ*, iii, p. 149, iv, p. 189, vi, nos 503, 1223; *Crime and the Jews*, pp. 106, 113-114, 127, 155-56.

Keywords: LONDON; MALE; MURDER; OUTLAW; PRISONER; WINCHESTER

See also: Benedict of Winchester (221)

227. Bona

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1281; May 1283

Biography: Bona and her husband Moses appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews in June/July 1281 to answer the charge of Matilda la Megre that they had unlawfully detained pledges for a debt. In return for a pledge of seven ells of cloth, the couple lent Matilda 3s and a certain Belasez lent her another 3s. But when Matilda tried to repay them, Moses and Bona refused to accept the 3s she offered them and demanded interest on the loan. She asked Matilda to pay a total of 10s and would not return the cloth until she did so, costing her £40. Matilda accused Moses and Bona of unlawfully detaining the cloth and of violating the 1275 Statute of the Jewry, which had banned the charging of interest.

The couple came and denied the charges. They said that they had received nothing from Matilda, either cloth or money. Instead, Belasez, acting on Matilda's behalf, had given them the cloth as a pledge in return for 8s 9d. Moses and Bona said that they would have then returned the cloth on receipt of the 8s 9d. They called Belasez to testify in their defence. But when she appeared before the court, she agreed with Matilda's version of events. She said that Matilda had asked her for a loan of 5s and offered the cloth as a pledge, but that she did not have 5s to give her. So, Belasez approached Bona, asking her to give half of the loan in return for the pledge of cloth. Each gave Matilda 2s 6d, which was later followed by another 12d between them. But when Matilda repaid the 6s, Moses and Bona demanded 10s instead. That Belasez tried to arrange this small loan for Matilda, and her siding with the Christian against her co-religionists, suggests a pre-existing relationship, perhaps a friendship, an interesting example of interfaith relations in medieval London.

As Belasez had disagreed with Moses and Bona's account of the dispute, the couple were to be imprisoned in the Tower until they had made amends to the king. The cloth was to be returned to Matilda upon payment of the 3s.

She was later imprisoned again by Easter 1283, when Bona and her husband were to appear before the Justices of the Jews to answer John Bailey and his wife Mett' in a plea of unjust detention but they did not come. The Constable of the Tower reported that Moses could not be found and Bona was being imprisoned for her tallage.

Sources: Victoria Hoyle, 'The bonds that bind: money lending between Anglo-Jewish and Christian women in the plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews, 1218-1280', *Journal of Medieval History*, 34 (2008), pp. 119-29, at 127-29; London, TNA, E 9/42, m. 8; *Select Pleas*, pp. 115-16.

Keywords: CANTERBURY; FEMALE; LONDON; PRISONER; UNLAWFUL DETENTION

See also: Moses of Dog Street (229)

228. [Jurnet son of Abraham](#)

Type: Staff

Date: June/July 1281

Biography: See No. 77 above.

229. [Moses of Dog Street](#)

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1281

Biography: Moses had property in both Canterbury and London. In 1277, Moses gave the king 10 bezants for the Jews of Canterbury so that they could have a writ to the sheriff of Kent protecting Jews from being arrested or imprisoned to compel them to contribute money towards the gates of Canterbury Castle. However, Moses son of Abraham, Hak Tof' and, Aaron son of Vives said that they did not agree to this. Sometime after 13 June that year, he paid the Tower sergeant 24s for having aid.

Moses also accompanied Jurnet son of Abraham, sergeant of the Tower, in carrying the body of the murdered Josce of Guildford to London, presumably for burial, when they were stopped by the bailiff of Southwark and his men. Josce had acted as a mainpernor for Moses in January/February 1278, in his case against the king, who had accused Moses of a certain trespass. The following year, he was indicted for an offence involving the king's coinage, probably coin-clipping.

By June/July 1281, Moses had been found guilty of this coinage offence, and had forfeited certain goods and chattels to the king, including a mazer cup with silver feet worth 6 marks, and other goods worth £13. These items had passed to William of Brokehull, whom the king sued for their return.

Moses and his wife Bona appeared before the Exchequer of the Jews in June/July 1281 to answer the charge of Matilda la Megre that they had unlawfully detained pledges for a debt. For the details of this case, see No. 226 above.

In Easter 1283, Bona and her husband were to appear before the Justices of the Jews to answer John Bailey and his wife Mett' in a plea of unjust detention, but they did not come. The Constable of the Tower reported that Moses could not be found and Bona was being imprisoned for her tallage.

Sources: *CPREJ*, iii, p. 295, iv, p. 181, v, nos 218, 237, vi, nos 718, 806, 975, 1012, 1106, 1124, 1135; Victoria Hoyle, 'The bonds that bind: money lending between Anglo-Jewish and Christian women in the plea rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews, 1218-1280', *Journal of Medieval History*, 34 (2008), pp. 119-29, at 127-29; London, TNA, E 9/42, m. 8; *Select Pleas*, pp. 115-16; *Money and the Hangman II*, p. 206.

Keywords: CANTERBURY; COIN-CLIPPING; LONDON; MALE; PRISONER; UNLAWFUL DETENTION

See also: Bona (227)

230. Bona

Type: Prisoner

Date: May 1283

Biography: See No. 226 above.

231. Benedict of Bedford AKA Bennet of Bedford

Type: Prisoner

Date: May 1283 to May 1285

Biography: See No. 217 above.

232. Jacob of Bedford AKA Jacob son of Pictavin of Bedford

Type: Imprisonment

Date: May 1283xJuly 1285

Biography: At some point, Jacob, alongside his brother Benedict and Benedict's daughter Pucella, converted to Christianity. This may have been after 1278-79, when he bought the books of condemned Jews from Hugh de Kendale, a royal official, for 4 marks, the money going into the king's wardrobe. They had returned to Judaism by 1282, when Archbishop Peckham asked the king that all three be arrested as lapsed converts.

Jacob was arrested in Bedford, alongside his brother Benedict of Bedford and Josce Batecock, both Jews, and William le Gaoler, charged with robbing foreign merchants in or near the city. For the details of this case, see No. 217 above.

A list of fines from 1282 to 1289 records Jacob paying £20 for receiving false plates from certain merchants, probably those in the 1283 court case. He had been hanged by July 1285. He was the son of Pictavin of Bedford.

Sources: *BLJS I*, p. 33; *Conversion*, pp. 271-72; *CPR*, 1281-92, pp. 98, 183; *King's Converts*, pp. 30-31; *Money and the Hangman II*, p. 193; *Select Pleas*, pp. 125-27.

Keywords: BEDFORD; CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; COIN-CLIPPING; CONVERT; EXECUTED; FRAUD; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Bella of Bedford (69); Benedict of Bedford (218); Josce Batecock (233)

233. Josce Batecock

Type: Prisoner

Date: May 1283 to May 1285

Biography: Josce was arrested in Bedford, alongside Benedict of Bedford and Jacob of Bedford, both Jews, and William le Gaoler, charged with robbing foreign merchants in or near the city. For the details of this case, see No. 217 above. A list of fines from 1282 to 1289 William le Gaoler paying a fine of 4 marks for exchanging false plates with Josce. He was married to a certain Rosa.

Sources: *CPR*, 1281-92, p. 98; *Select Pleas*, pp. 125-27.

Keywords: BEDFORD; CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; COIN-CLIPPING; FRAUD; MALE; PRISONER

See also: Benedict of Bedford (218); Jacob of Bedford (232)

234. Bonefey of Cricklade

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1284

Biography: A wealthy and influential businessman. There is very little evidence that he worked in partnership with his father, Lombard of Cricklade, which suggests they managed their business affairs separately, although both were based in Oxfordshire.

In 1278/79 he was fined £133 6s 8d in addition to the debt of £4 10s 4d he inherited from his father. He was unable to pay in full due to lack of funds.

Bonefey was imprisoned in the Tower in the summer of 1284 accused of murdering a man in Oxfordshire and concealing the goods of Jews who had been condemned for coin-clipping. Both cases were dismissed, and he was freed.

In 1290, Bonefey, along with Isaac Calne, Simon of Hautworth and Sadekin of Marlborough, was arrested for hunting illegally. They were later released on bail.

In November 1290, Bonefey and his son went into exile. Despite earlier financial difficulties, he was by this time the wealthiest Jew in Oxford. He left behind the £231 18s 4d he was owed in unpaid debts.

Sources: Robin R. Mundill, 'Lumbard and Son: The Businesses and Debtors of Two Jewish Moneylenders in Late Thirteenth-Century England', *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, 82.1 (1991), 137-170; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 66-67

Keywords: CONCEALMENT; CRICKLADE; MALE; MURDER; OXFORD

See also: Isaac of Calne (97); Lombard of Cricklade (66)

235. Isaac de Poulet the Younger

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1284; June/July 1290 to at least 23 October 1290

Biography: Isaac was a moneylender based in Oxford. His wife was called Rebecca. He was the son of Isaac de Poulet the Elder, who had been a wealthy financier in Oxford before his execution at the Tower for coin-clipping in 1278.

In 1283/84, Isaac was fined £10 for the concealment of goods belonging to condemned Jews.

In Summer 1284 he was accused of the murder of William de Prene in Oxford, which took place on 22 April 1284. William's brother, John de Prene, and his father, Simon, accused Isaac, Isaac's wife Rebecca, Isaac Calne, Jacob of Wickham and Countessa Craue of a pre-meditated attack on William. According to one account, William was in the Jewry when he was stabbed with a knife in the stomach and may have taken as long as two days to die from his wounds. In another account, William died where he fell near the Northgate outside the Church of St Mary Magdalene. It also details that the fatal wound was made by a sword from Cologne, 3" below the right breast, 4" wide, and went through to the heart. Simon de Prene presented himself as an eyewitness to the events. Isaac was arrested in Kent and held at Leeds Castle, Kent, before being taken to the Sheriff's prison in Oxford. He pleaded not guilty and was sent to the Tower to be tried in front of a mixed jury in London, away from local bias. Isaac believed the jurors would also be able to confirm that he had actually been in London that day. On the 20 October 1286 he was brought out in front of the constable of the Tower and a number of judges. Later that year he was acquitted by a jury of Christians and Jews.

In the summer of 1290, he was accused of the murders of 'Coradinus le Furbur and Joan, daughter of Stephen de la Marche, killed in the City of London', in addition to the murder of William le Prene in Oxford. He was at the same time implicated in the forgery of the seals of Reading Abbey and the creation of forged charters, along with Josce of Newbury, who was accused of the same crimes. The Abbot at Reading appealed to the King concerning the alleged forgery, and the matter was investigated by the King's council (for further details of the case, see Josce of Newbury). When Josce appeared before the justices of the King's Bench, he accused Isaac of playing the greater part in the forgery of the documents. However, on hearing Isaac's version of events, the justices and members of the King's council were convinced of Isaac's innocence and Josce's guilt.

In late June or early July, the king ordered that Josce and Isaac be brought formally to trial. This order was apparently not obeyed, as the king again ordered them to be tried, this time specifying that their forgeries had involved large amounts of money. Josce and Isaac appeared at the Tower before a mixed jury on the 23 October 1290; only ten jurors were present, and no more than four of them were Christians. The jury found Isaac guilty of forging both the documents and the seals. Josce was determined to have acted as a messenger but was acquitted of the forgery charges. The same justices tried Isaac alone for the murders of Coradinus le Furbur, Joan, daughter of Stephen de la Marche, and William le Prene.

The records of Isaac end here; we do not know if he was found guilty of the murder charges, or what his sentence was for the forgery case, but it is probable that he was executed. The forgery charges alone at this time would have led to a sentence of execution, and Isaac's hanging would have also allowed the crown to seize his goods.

Sources: *CPR*, 1281-92, p. 402; Cecil Roth, *The Jews of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951), pp. 78-80; TNA E101/119/12; TNA JUST1/707 M22; TNA JUST1/710 M52D; TNA JUST3/36/1 M33; *Crime and the Jews*, pp. 147-149; Paul Brand, 'New Light on the

Expulsion of the Jewish Community from England in 1290', *Reading Medieval Studies*, XL (2014), 101-116 (pp. 101-107)

Keywords: CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; EXECUTED?; FRAUD; MALE; MURDER; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Countessa Craue (236); Isaac of Calne (97); Isaac de Poulet the Elder (211); Josce of Newbury (245); Jacob of Wycombe (237); Rebecca (238)

236. Countessa Craue

Type: Prisoner

Date: From October 1284

Biography: In 1284, alongside Isaac de Poulet the younger and his wife Rebecca, Isaac of Calne, and Jacob of Wycombe, Countessa was accused of complicity in the death of William de Prene. For details of this case, see No. 235 above. It is not known what happened to her but only Isaac de Poulet was eventually brought to trial on this charge, and so Countessa may have been set free.

Sources: Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Crime and Jews in Late Thirteenth-Century England: Some Cases and Comments', *Hebrew Union College Journal*, 55 (1984), pp. 95-157, at 148-49.

Keywords: FEMALE; MURDER; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Isaac of Calne (97); Isaac de Poulet the Younger (235); Jacob of Wycombe (237); Rebecca (238)

237. Jacob of Wycombe

Type: Prisoner

Date: From October 1284

Biography: In 1284, alongside Isaac de Poulet and his wife Rebecca, Isaac of Calne, and Countessa Craue, Jacob was accused of complicity in the death of William de Prene. For details of this case, see No. 235 above. Only Isaac de Poulet was eventually brought to trial on this charge, and so Jacob may have been set free. He was also accused of coinage offences, possibly coin-clipping, for which he paid a fine in 1286. He was still alive in June 1290, when he was a juror in a trial investigating a suspected forged charter, and probably went into exile later that year at the Expulsion.

Sources: *Money and the Hangman II*, p. 195; Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Crime and Jews in Late Thirteenth-Century England: Some Cases and Comments', *Hebrew Union College Journal*, 55

(1984), pp. 95-157, at 148-49; Jonathan Romain, 'River Jews: medieval Jews along the Thames as a microcosm of Anglo-Jewry', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 43 (2011), pp. 21-42, at 36.

Keywords: MALE; MURDER; PRISONER; WYCOMBE

See also: Countessa Craue (236); Isaac of Calne (97); Isaac de Poulet the younger (235); Rebecca (238)

238. Rebecca

Type: Prisoner

Date: From October 1284

Biography: Rebecca was the wife of Isaac de Poulet the younger. In 1284, alongside her husband, Isaac of Calne, Countessa Craue, and Jacob of Wycombe, Rebecca was accused of complicity in the death of William de Prene. For details of this case, see No. 235 above. She was originally held in Oxford Castle on this charge, but it was ordered that she be transferred to the Tower, even though the sheriff of Oxford said that she was too ill to walk or ride a horse. It is not known what happened to her but only Isaac de Poulet was eventually brought to trial on this charge, and so Rebecca may have been set free.

Sources: Zefira Entin Rokéah, 'Crime and Jews in Late Thirteenth-Century England: Some Cases and Comments', *Hebrew Union College Journal*, 55 (1984), pp. 95-157, at 148-49.

Keywords: FEMALE; MURDER; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Countessa Craue (236); Isaac of Calne (97); Isaac de Poulet the younger (235); Jacob of Wycombe (237)

239. Aaron of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: 9 April 1285 to after 15 February 1286

Biography: See No. 134 above.

240. Isaac son of Aaron of Worcester

Type: Prisoner

Date: 9 April 1285 to after 15 February 1286

Biography: The son of Aaron of Worcester, one of the Jewish chirographers of Hereford, Isaac and his father had moved to Oxford by 1285, where they and Blaka, either his or Isaac's wife (the sources disagree on who she was married to) were all indicted for the death of Robert the porter of Oxford Castle. As the three failed to appear in court to answer this charge, they were

each outlawed. Isaac was also indicted of trampling upon Juliana daughter of Agnes of Blakham while on a horse in the Oxford Jewry. She died two days later. In February 1286, the pair were pardoned of outlawry, as it was unlawful to outlaw people while they were imprisoned and unable to appear to answer charges against them. The Constable of the Tower had informed the king that the two Jews turned themselves into the Tower in April 1285 after their indictment and had remained in prison until June that year. They were then transferred to the custody of a Thomas of Layton, perhaps an agent of the sheriff of Oxford, as they were held in Oxford prison by February 1287. By this time, Blaka had joined them. She is not mentioned as being held at the Tower and appears to have been imprisoned in Oxford soon after the 1285 indictment. Isaac was still alive in Easter 1290, when he paid 5s of a fine for a trespass.

Sources: *CPR*, 1281-92, p. 221; *Crime and the Jews*, pp. 143-46.

Keywords: MALE; MURDER; OUTLAW; OXFORD; PRISONER

See also: Aaron of Worcester (135)

241. Peter son of Stephen le Convers

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 27 May 1287

Biography: Peter was the son of Stephen, a convert to Christianity from Judaism. He may have been a convert himself or born after his father became a Christian. He and Stephen were arrested along with a Ralph le Teynturer and a Richard Roberd and imprisoned in the Tower. For details of this case, see No. 242 below.

Sources: *CCR*, 1279-88, p. 450; Selden, pp. 119-21; *Reading Abbey Cartularies II*, ed. Brian Kemp, Camden Fourth Series, 33 (London, 1987), no. 1021.

Keywords: CONVERT?; MALE; PRISONER; READING; TREASURE

See also: Stephen le Convers (242)

242. Stephen le Convers

Type: Prisoner

Date: By 27 May 1287

Biography: Stephen was a convert to Christianity from Judaism. His Jewish name is unknown. He and his son Peter were arrested along with a Ralph le Teynturer and a Richard Roberd and imprisoned in the Tower. The group had been found in the possession of treasure, which by

rights should belong to the king. On 27 May 1287, the king ordered that they be released on bail.

In October/November 1287, Thomas of London, bailiff of the Liberty of the abbot of Reading, was brought to court to answer the charge that he had impeded the arrest of Stephen and Peter. The king's sergeants-at-arms tried to arrest the two, but the men were freed by Thomas and John Chamberlain. Thomas explained that the abbey's privileges meant that no royal officials could carry out an arrest there without the order of the king. Stephen and Peter were men of the Liberty and so under his protection. Also, the king's sergeants were strangers and did not show Thomas any evidence that they were acting for the king or why they should be allowed to arrest Stephen and Peter. Therefore, Thomas imprisoned Stephen and Peter himself and kept them until the king ordered that they be taken to the Tower of London.

Stephen clearly had some link with Reading Abbey. A gift to Roger of the infirmary of Reading and his wife Gunhilda in c. 1290x1300 was to be held for a rent of 2s to the abbot, 1 mark to the subprior, 3s to Stephen, 14d to the church of St Laurence. Stephen may have worked for the abbey in his capacity as a goldsmith, which could explain Thomas of London's determination to resist Stephen's arrest.

Sources: *CCR*, 1279-88, p. 450; Selden, pp. 119-21; *Reading Abbey Cartularies II*, ed. Brian Kemp, Camden Fourth Series, 33 (London, 1987), no. 1021.

Keywords: CONVERT; GOLDSMITH; MALE; PRISONER; READING; TREASURE

See also: Peter son of Stephen le Convers (241)

243. Belaset of Somerton

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1290

Biography: Belaset was held at the Tower in 1290 in connection with the forgery of the seals of Reading Abbey and the creation of forged charters. For details of the case, see Nos 235 and 245.

Sources: Paul Brand, 'New Light on the Expulsion of the Jewish Community from England in 1290', *Reading Medieval Studies*, 40 (2014), pp. 101-116, at 101-107.

F FEMALE; FRAUD; PRISONER; SOMERTON

See also: Isaac de Poulet the Younger (235); Josce of Newbury (245)

244. Isaac de Poulet the Younger

Type: Prisoner

Date: June/July 1290 to at least 23 October 1290

Biography: See No. 235 above.

245. Josce of Newbury

Type: Prisoner

Date: By June/July 1290

Biography: Originally from Devizes, Josce is one of the last recorded Jewish prisoners at the Tower in the medieval period. In late June or early July 1290, Josce and Isaac de Poulet were held in the Tower of London when the king ordered that their gaol be delivered. They had been accused of forging the seals of Reading Abbey and using these to create forged charters saying that the abbey owed them money. They were also accused of other unspecified felonies, and Isaac specifically of three murders. This order was apparently not obeyed, as the king again ordered the delivery of their gaol a few days later, this time specifying that their forgeries had involved large amounts of money.

In October that year, with the deadline for the expulsion of the Jews just weeks away, Josce was put on trial at the Tower, charged with forging three charters showing that Reading Abbey owed him a total of £3000.

The abbey claimed that Josce had presented certain charters to them. The first charter stated that the abbot and the convent owed one hundred sacks of wool, worth £1000, to Saunte of Winchester. Another claimed that they owed four hundred quarters of wheat, each quarter worth half a mark, to Jacob of Oxford, son of Master Moses. The final charter alleged that the same Jacob of Oxford had deposited £300, £30 in florins, a gold cup, twelve gold spoons, one silver alms dish and two 'barilla barres de ore de mugat' at the abbey, which he or his heirs planned to reclaim in the future. All of these appeared to have been signed and sealed by the abbot on the abbey's behalf.

At some stage before his trial, perhaps after his arrest, Josce claimed he was innocent, and accused John of Cricklade of writing the bonds in return for 2s and Hugh Pye of taking them to Josce in Oxford. He confessed to passing on the documents to Belaset of Somerton after he had showed them to the abbey's representatives; the charters were found when Belasset's house was searched by the sheriff of Oxfordshire and handed over to the king's council. John, Hugh and Belaset were then imprisoned in the Tower based on Josce's testimony. When Josce appeared before the justices of the King's Bench, he accused Isaac de Poulet the younger of being behind the forged documents. However, on hearing Isaac's version of events, the justices and members of the King's council were convinced of his innocence.

In late June or early July, the king ordered Josce and Isaac be brought formally to trial. This order was apparently not obeyed, as the king again ordered them to be tried, this time specifying that their forgeries had involved large amounts of money. Josce and Isaac appeared at the Tower before a mixed jury on the 23 October 1290; only ten jurors were present, and no more than four of them were Christians. The jury found Isaac guilty of forging both the documents and the seals. Josce was determined to have acted as a messenger but was acquitted of the

forgery charges. It is not known what happened to him following this, but he likely went into exile with the rest of England's Jewish population eight days later.

Sources: Paul Brand, 'New Light on the Expulsion of the Jewish Community from England in 1290', *Reading Medieval Studies*, 40 (2014), pp. 101-116, at 101-107; *CPR*, 1281-92, pp. 402, 405; Jonathan Romain, 'River Jews: medieval Jews along the Thames as a microcosm of Anglo-Jewry', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 43 (2011), pp. 21-42, at 39.

Keywords: CHRISTIAN ACCOMPLICE; DEVIZES; FRAUD; MALE; NEWBURY; PRISONER

See also: Belaset of Somerton (243); Isaac de Poulet the Younger (235)