Jews, Politics and Antisemitism in Ireland

An all-island political history

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Merchants and neighbours in Waterford

Waterford had attracted at least one Jewish merchant long before it had a congregation. The corporation was encouraging foreign merchants to trade. Jacob Nunes applied to do business in the port and received the freedom of the city in the early 1700s. The record supplies a commercial reason for his presence. There is no family register linking him to the people whose shops and houses appear in the records nearly two centuries later. [24]

Harfield's commercial directory lists Raphael Smullian at 72 Manor Street as a draper and house-furnisher. Farther along the same street, Louis S. Diamond advertised the same trades and dated his business to 1887. [26]

In 1894 Fanny Diamond married Jack Lappin at 88 The Manor, on 14 November. The visiting Cork minister, the Rev. J. E. Myers, officiated with Waterford's own minister, the Rev. Simon Aarons. The Jewish Chronicle reported that Christians filled the synagogue for the occasion. [25]

Waterford families came by several routes. On Scotch Quay the Osiakowski household gave its birthplace as Russian Poland. A marriage notice for Floretta Goldring and Isaac Sidorsky in 1907 named the groom's parents in Suwałki, then in Russian Poland. The minister officiating at their wedding came from Limerick. [25, 27]

Sources for this section

24 David Toms, 'Jewish Waterford, 1893–1940'. Discussion of Jacob Nunes and the freedom to trade, citing Louis Hyman, The Jews of Ireland, p. 22.

25 Jewish Chronicle, reports from Waterford, 1893–1907. Contemporary notices transcribed by Harold Pollins. See 22 September 1893, 20 October and 23 November 1894, 17 July and 6 November 1896, and 10 May 1907.

26 G. Eugene Harfield, A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom. Hewlett & Pierce, 1894. Waterford listings for John Street, Johnstown and Manor Street.

27 National Archives of Ireland, 'Waterford: Politics and institutions'. The Osiakowski census return and the household on Scotch Quay.