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FINDINGS ON GENEALOGY OF FONSECA FAMILY AND THE ROLE OF MARSHAL DEODORO IN THE FALL OF MONARCHY IN BRAZIL, 1889

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Summary

Marshal Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca was the only military leader capable of raising his sword against the Empire. The fall of the Monarchy, with the consequent Proclamation of the Republic, was achieved thanks to the military intervention led by the bravery and courage of Marshal Deodoro, when he entered the Army Headquarters on the historic 15th of November 1889. It was the response to the incapacity of the monarchy in meeting the interests and demands of the Brazilian Society.

This work examines the New Christian ancestry of Marechal Deodoro, through paternal lineage, from his father Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Mendes da Fonseca, whose seven sons were known as the Maccabees, for having fought in the Paraguayan War, and his mother Dona Rosa da Fonseca, herself, as "The Maccabean". Da Rosa was recently designated Patron of the Military Family.

The FONSECAS, like so many northeastern families, descended from New Christians, who immigrated from Portugal to the then colony of Brazil. There may even be a possible kinship between the Fonseca Family and the first rabbi in Brazil, Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, according to Walter Fonseca in his book "A family and a story" (1982).

Résumé

Le maréchal Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca était le seul chef militaire capable de relever son épée contre l'Empire. La chute de la monarchie, avec la proclamation qui en résulte de la République, a été réalisé grâce à l'intervention militaire menée par la bravoure et courage du maréchal Deodoro, lorsqu'il entra dans l'état-major de l'armée sur le lieu historique 15 novembre 1889. C'était la réponse à l'incapacité de la monarchie à se réunir les intérêts et les revendications de la société brésilienne.

Cet ouvrage examine l'ascendance néo-chrétienne du Maréchal Deodoro, à travers son lignée, de son père, le lieutenant-colonel Manuel Mendes da Fonseca, dont les sept leurs fils étaient connus sous le nom de Maccabées, pour avoir combattu dans la guerre du Paraguay, et ses mère Dona Rosa da Fonseca, elle-même, dans le rôle de « La Maccabée ». Da Rosa a été récemment désigné Patron de la Famille Militaire.

Les Fonsecas, comme tant de familles du nord-est, descendaient des nouveaux chrétiens, qui immigré du Portugal vers la colonie du Brésil d'alors. Il se peut même qu'il y ait une possibilité parenté entre la famille Fonseca et le premier rabbin du Brésil, Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, selon Walter Fonseca dans son livre "Une famille et une histoire" (1982).

Key words: Deodoro, Fonseca, Brazil, Republic, New-Christians

Mots clés: Deodoro, Fonseca, Brésil, République, Nouveaux Chrétiens

Introduction

Brazil was under a monarchical regime from 1822 to 1889. Monarchy was adopted in the country shortly after independence, which occurred in 1822, when Dom Pedro I was acclaimed and crowned as Emperor of Brazil. Until 1889, when this system was replaced, the country had two monarchs, who ruled during the First Reign (1822-1831) – Dom Pedro I, and the Second Reign (1840-1889) – his son Dom Pedro II.

The crisis of the Empire was marked by three issues that shook the relationship with its main sources of political support: the religious issue, the abolitionist issue and the military issue. The Brazilian Empire was in conflict with three of the most important living forces of the Nation: the church, the farmers and the military.

The crisis of the monarchy stemmed from the Army's dissatisfaction with salaries, pensions, non-participation in politics and the adoption of positivism as an ideology. The farmers were dissatisfied with the abolition of slavery without any compensation,

and the Church was dissatisfied with Dom Pedro II's refusal to confirm the Papal Bull Syllabus, and the crisis that followed.

The weakening of Dom Pedro II and the worsening of his health left the Second Reign without a command, without a leader, which favored the movement of the troops of Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca on November 15, 1889, to decree the end of the Empire and establish republic in Brazil.

Marshal Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca was the only military leader capable of raising his sword against the Empire. The fall of the monarchy, with the consequent Proclamation of the Republic, was achieved thanks to the military intervention led by the bravery and courage of Marshal Deodoro, when he entered the Army Headquarters on the historic November 15, 1889. It was the response to the monarchy's inability to meet the interests and demands of Brazilian society.

This work examines the New Christian ancestry of Marshal Deodoro, through paternal lineage from his father, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Mendes da Fonseca, whose seven sons were known as the Macabees, for having fought in the Paraguayan War, and his mother Dona Rosa da Fonseca, herself, as "The Macabean". Da Rosa was recently designated by the Brazilian Army as the Patroness of the Military Family.

The FONSECAS, like so many families from the Northeast, descend from New Christians who immigrated from Portugal to the then colony of Brazil. There may even be a possible relationship between the Fonseca family and the first rabbi of Brazil, Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, according to Walter Fonseca in his book "A family and a history" (1982).

Brazil of the New Christians

According to several studies (Novinski, Lipiner, Wolff, Izecksohn, Pernidji), it is known that in the origins of Brazil there was a significant presence of New Christians, or Marranos, or Crypto-Jews, or Judaizers, who in the Hebrew language are referred to as "Anussim" (forced). The first of them arrived aboard the ships of Admiral Pedro Álvares Cabral, in search of new air, new times, a new world, where no one would be forced to have the King's religion, where they could follow the Ten Commandments, the Law of Moses, without fear of the bonfires of the "Sancta" Inquisition. Two New Christians stood out in the Cabral fleet: Master João de Faras, a physician and astronomer, who made the first astronomical observations in Brazil, including identifying the Southern Cross constellation, which possibly inspired one of the first names of the discovered land, Terra de Santa Cruz, and Gaspar da Gama, an interpreter who accompanied Vasco da Gama to the Indies, as commander of the ship that transported supplies for the expedition. Both Jews were forced to convert to Catholicism.

Manuel Mendes da Fonseca and Rosa da Fonseca - Genealogy and Family Structure

The surnames Mendes and Fonseca⁽¹⁾ as well as those originating from families with Jewish origins, who at a given moment, whether through marriage or other reasons, although nominally may have moved away from their Jewish condition, have not lost the genealogical DNA ties that link them to Judaism, even if they are remote, as these are almost indissoluble, since the Jewish blood of the new Christians who produced part of our nationality has permeated generations and generations and today flows, although distributed in thousands of proportions, in the veins of so many Brazilians, who are barely aware of it.

Thus, in these lines, we have gathered notes that indicate possible Jewish origins dating back to Portugal before the discovery of Brazil, of the children of Rosa da Fonseca.



Figure 1 - Mrs. Rosa da Fonseca and her seven children, the Seven Maccabees

Credit: www.legiaodainfantariadoceara.org/Rosa-Fonseca_principal.html

In 1824, Manoel Mendes da Fonseca from Pernambuco and Rosa Maria Paulina de Barros Cavalcanti from Alagoas got married and had ten children, two of whom were girls, Amélia Rosa da Fonseca and Emília Rosa da Fonseca, and eight boys, seven of whom went to the Paraguayan War, in which three died in combat: Afonso Aurélio da Fonseca, Eduardo Emiliano da Fonseca and Hipólito Mendes da Fonseca. The five surviving children became prominent figures in the history of Brazil, namely:

- Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca, Marshal of the Army, Generalissimo of Land and Sea, founder of the Republic and head of the Provisional Government

1. Faiguenboim, Guilherme; Valadares, Paulo; Campagnano, Anna Rosa, SEFARADIC DICTIONARY OF SURNAMES, ISBN 9788585989200, Portuguese, English, Paperback, 528 pages, 2004, including New Christians, Converts, Marranos, Italians, Berbers and their history in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

and 1st Constitutional President, Grand Cross of the Order of Aviz, Grand Dignitary of the Rose, Grand Cross of the Order of the Cross.

- João Severiano da Fonseca, General Physician, Patron of the Army Health Service, Doctor of Medicine from the Faculty of Rio de Janeiro, military doctor and writer.
- Hermes Ernesto da Fonseca, Marshal of the Army, former President of the Province of Mato Grosso, Commander of Arms in the Provinces of Pará and Bahia, Governor of Bahia, War Counselor, Grand Cross of the Order of Aviz, Dignitary of the Orders of the Rose and the Cross, Knight of Christ.
- Severiano Martins da Fonseca, Field Marshal, former director of the Military School of Porto Alegre, Baron of Alagoas, Grandee of the Empire, War Counselor of the Emperor's Council, Deacon of Empress D. Teresa Cristina, Commander of the Orders of Christ and Aviz, Officer of the Rose and the Cross
- Pedro Paulino da Fonseca, Senator and Honorary Colonel, retired Army Lieutenant, Honorary Colonel of the Army, former Governor of Alagoas, Federal Senator for the same State

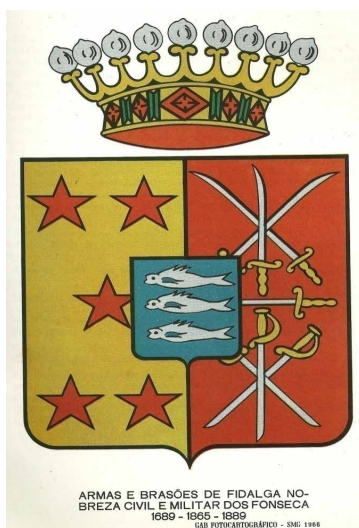


Figure 2 – Coat of Arms of the Fonseca Family
Credit: SGEx

Dutch Period – 1st Rabbi of Brazil: Isaac Aboab da Fonseca

According to Fonseca (1982), Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Mendes Fonseca shares genealogical roots with the first Rabbi of Brazil, Isaac Aboab da Fonseca (1605-1693),

born in Castro Daire, district of Viseu, a town today with around 4,600 inhabitants, around 300km NE of Lisbon, in the traditional province of Beira Alta⁽²⁾

As a child, Aboab moved with his family to Amsterdam, which become an important center for Sephardic Jews expelled from Portugal and Spain. Sepharad means Spain in Hebrew, and to this day the Sephardim still speak Ladino, a language very similar to Portuguese and Spanish, with some Hebrew influence. Aboab landed in Recife in 1642, during the Dutch rule (1630-1654), and returned to Amsterdam after the Batavian defeat.



Figure 4 – Rabbi Isaac Aboab da Fonseca. Credit – Wikimedia

The Biblical Maccabees – Fight against the Greeks and the Festival of Lights

Seven sons of Da. Rosa da Fonseca are known as the Maccabees, for having fought in the Paraguayan War, and she herself is known as “The Maccabean”: They are Afonso Aurélio da Fonseca, Eduardo Emiliano da Fonseca and Hipólito Mendes da Fonseca, the three heroes who fell in combat, and the four who reached the rank of general, Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca, Marshal and President of the Republic, João Severiano da Fonseca, General Physician, Patron of the Army Health Service, Hermes Ernesto da Fonseca, Marshal of the Army and Severiano Martins da Fonseca, Field Marshal,

The word macabee derives from the Hebrew macabi – hammer. It was the name given to the five sons of the priest Matathiau, the most illustrious of whom was Yehuda haMacabi – Judas the Hammer, for his strength and determination in the fight against

2. www.ine.pt Portal of the National Institute of Statistics, accessed on October 13, 2016

the Greeks. The sons of Matathiau, the five Maccabees, were valiant soldiers in the Hebrew Army. Two millennia passed, and the seven sons of Da. Rosa da Fonseca, in the same way, also knew how to defend the Fatherland, as soldiers in the Army of Caxias, hence they are also called "The Maccabees".

Evidence of the Jewish Origin of Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca

Fonsecas Jewish Branch

Jews arrived in Brazil with Admiral Cabral's fleet. The vast majority of them were Marranos (children of Jews or Jews converted to Christianity) expelled from Portugal to Brazil and fugitives from the persecution inflicted on them by the Inquisition (FONSECA, 1982, p. 103).

In the year 1642, together with about six hundred Dutch Jews, Rabbi Isac Aboab da FONSECA arrived in Recife, becoming the first Rabbi of Brazil. He was accompanied by Rabbi Moses Raphael de Aguiar (FONSECA, 1982, p. 103).

One of the rare genealogies known is that of Pedro Dias Paes Leme and Dona Maria Leite da Silva, parents of FERNÃO DIAS PAES LEME (1608-1681), born in São Paulo and Captain of the Militia Corps (FONSECA, 1982, p. 104).

Fernão Dias Paes Leme was the father of Garcia Rodrigues Paes, born in São Paulo in 1618, who married his cousin, Maria Antônia Pinheiro da FONSECA, sister of Colonel Domingos Rodrigues da FONSECA LEME. From this union were born: Pedro Dias Paes, Mayor of Bahia; Fernão Dias Paes, Field Master; Ignácio Das Paes and Lucrécia Leme Borges and Manoel de Sá e Figueiredo 82 (FONSECA, 1982, p. 104). The ascending and descending genealogy referred to here, of the São Paulo Marrano Fernão Dias Rodrigues da Fonseca Leme cited by Loewenstamm, is almost coincident with that raised by Rheingantz, in his interesting study of direct filiation and kinship between Presidents Campos Salles, Prudente de Moraes, Hermes Rodrigues and Deodoro da Fonseca (FONSECA, 1982, P. 104).

Fonsecas and New Christians

ROBERTO PIRAGIBE DA FONSECA, in a substantial study regarding the origins of the Brazilian FONSECAS, states that they are all New Christians. Examining the subject in greater depth, he clarifies: "There is no reason for apprehension. Fortunately, especially at the beginning of the 18th century, we received the cream of Judaism, that is, the Mediterranean Jew, called Sephardim, Sefardim or Sefarditas. Only centuries later Jews from Central and Eastern Europe arrived here." (FONSECA, 1982, p. 105).

In continuing his research, the historian PIRAGIBE DA FONSECA highlights the fact that ROGER PEYREITTE included DEODORO by name, therefore the FONSECAS of Alagoas among the inconnus Jews, and adds that the Semites who lived in part of the

coast of Brazil in the 18th century, and among them the FONSECAS, belonging to the category of *juifs bien nés* (FONSECA, 1982, p. 105).

Possible Research Sources

There is a study in which Roberto Piragibe da Fonseca argues that the origins of the Brazilian FONSECAS are New Christians, all of them (MITCHELL, Gilberto de Medeiros. *HISTORICAL MEMORIA SOBRE A GENEALOGIA DA FAMÍLIA FONSECA*. n.d. Typed notes by Phidias da Fonseca Machado.)

Fernão Dias Paes Leme, born in São Paulo (1608), showed marked characteristics of Jewish origin (*marrano*) (LOEWENSTAMM, Kurt. *Jewish figures in Brazil. Colonial times - 1500 to 1822*. Trans. Kurt Hahn. Rio de Janeiro, A Noite, 1949.)

Rheingantz refers to ascending and descending genealogy in a similar manner in his study of direct filiation and kinship between Presidents Campos Salles, Prudente de Moraes, Hermes Rodrigues and Deodoro da Fonseca. (*BRAZIL GENEALOGY. Journal of the Brazilian College of Genealogy*, 2(5):194-223, 1967.)

It would be appropriate to mention here the illustrious and self-proclaimed New Christian JOSÉ ANTONIO GONSALVES DE MELLO, the “Grand Master of the History of Pernambuco and the Northeast”,⁽³⁾ who was born and died in Recife (December 16, 1916 – January 7, 2002), son of Ulysses Pernambucano de Mello and Albertina Carneiro Leão. He was one of the greatest experts on the history of the Dutch presence in the Brazilian northeast. Without him, the first synagogue in the Americas would probably still be hidden today, like the hardware store that operated in the old building on Rua dos Judeus. Author of *Tempo dos Flamengos* and the *magnus opus Gente da Nação* (1990),⁽⁴⁾ he uses verses by Argentine writer Jorge Luís Borges (1899-1986) as an epigraph, telling the story of how he consulted his cousin Sylvio Paes Barreto about a possible Jewish origin, who informed him that he was descended from the old Duarte de Sá.⁽⁵⁾

The Pernambucano de Mello family has Fonseca Galvão ancestry, whose Alagoan branch, the “Seven Maccabees” of Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca (1827-1892), considers itself related to Rabbi Isaac Aboab da Fonseca.

When the paternal grandfather of the great historian GONSALVES DE MELLO was in Rio de Janeiro, Marshal Deodoro called him “cousin”, acknowledging the relationship between the two families. Here we have indisputable proof of Deodoro’s New Christian roots, of which he was aware.

3. Inauguration Oration of Col. Claudio Skora Rosty in the Gonsalves de Mello Chair of the Brazilian Academy of Terrestrial Military History on October 22, 2009 at the National Archives, Rio de Janeiro.

4. MELLO, José Antonio Gonsalves de - *People of the Nation; New Christians and Jews in Pernambuco. 1542-1654*. Recife. Fund. Joaquim Nabuco, Ed. Massangana, 1989.552 p. II.

5. In Bestaesfolada.blogspot.com/2010_12_01_archive.html, by the eminent genealogist Paulo Valadares

Conclusion

References to Portuguese Jews named Mendes and Fonseca occur in many specialized books, such as those by the late Anita Novinski, eminent professor at USP who is considered the greatest expert on Marranism in Brazil, and perhaps in the world.⁽⁶⁾

We hope to have provided scholars of the subject with some support on the topic, in these brief genealogical considerations on the children of Dona Rosa da Fonseca, the seven Maccabees, converging with the indicators listed by Walter Fonseca in his work (Fonseca 1982), where he also reports several other FONSECAS from the Jewish branch, also citing the surveys produced by Loewenstamm, Rheingantz, Roberto Piragibe da Fonseca and Roger Peyrefitte, including by name Deodoro and the FONSECAS from Alagoas, as being of Semitic origin, as well as the references of the great Pernambucan and New Christian JOSÉ ANTONIO GONSALVES DE MELLO.

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