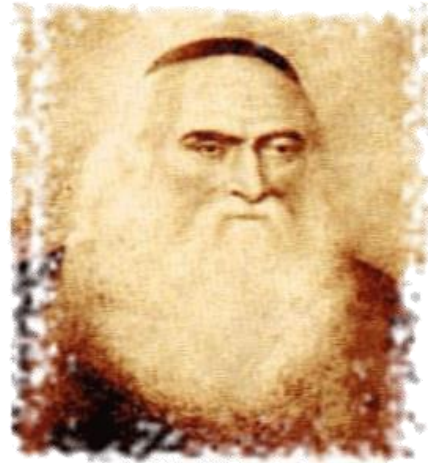


A **Marrano**, in Spanish history, refers to a Jew who converted to the Christian faith to escape persecution (during the Spanish Inquisition mostly) but who continued to practice Judaism secretly.

One such person was **Don Abraham Seneor**, who is related to one of my AP World History students (2020/2021) and Aliza added her family heritage and findings to our class discussions during this part of the syllabus.

Don Abraham Seneor lived in the 1400's (1412 - 1493) as the chief rabbi of the Jewish community in Segovia (north of Madrid), as well as chief tax officer for the crown, guiding Spain into making prudent financial decisions. His most important role was as a close advisor to the queen and king, advising them on matters ranging from finance to war. Don Abraham's most impactful accomplishment was the single-handed intermediation that led to the betrothal of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon.



When the age of the Inquisition came, Isabella and Ferdinand were hopeful he would convert and continue his royal duties. He refused and they began to panic. Isabella then threatened if he did not convert, they would gather all the Jews and kill them. To save his community, Don Abraham converted to Roman Catholicism. **At the old age of 80, Don Abraham Seneor became Fernando Perez Coronel.**

In recent years, an ancient synagogue was found in his house. During the Inquisition Seneor continued to play a key financial role in assisting others in the Jewish community forced to leave Spain. Some of his descendants left Spain in later years spreading out to the Netherlands, and the Middle East.

In addition, an excellent reading source about finding Don Abraham's secret shul from 1492: <http://melbourneblogger.blogspot.com/2011/02/segovias-secret-synagogue-revealed.html>



Coats of Arms for descendants of Don Abraham Senior Coronel