

Benjamin Mendez Seixas

Benjamin Mendez Seixas was the fourth son of Isaac Mendez Seixas. He was born 17 January 1747 in Newport, Rhode Island. He moved to New York City as a young man, became a Freeman, and set up his own saddlery shop.

He served as a Third Lieutenant in the Fusiliers Company of the First Battalion of the New York Militia. When the British took over NYC, he joined his parents in Connecticut.

He married Zipporah Levy on January 27, 1779 with his brother, Gershom Mendez Seixas, officiating. Benjamin and Zipporah had an astonishing twenty-one children between 1779 and 1805.

While in Philadelphia, he became a privateer with Isaac Moses. He was a mason and the treasurer of the Sublime Lodge of Perfection. He served as a trustee for the Philadelphia congregation Mikveh Israel.

In 1784, he and his family returned to NYC. He opened a dry goods store, was active in Congregation Shearith Israel, and was one of the founders of the New York Stock Exchange.

Benjamin Mendez Seixas died in NYC August 16, 1817. He is buried at the First Cemetery of Congregation Shearith Israel, Chinatown, New York City, NY.

