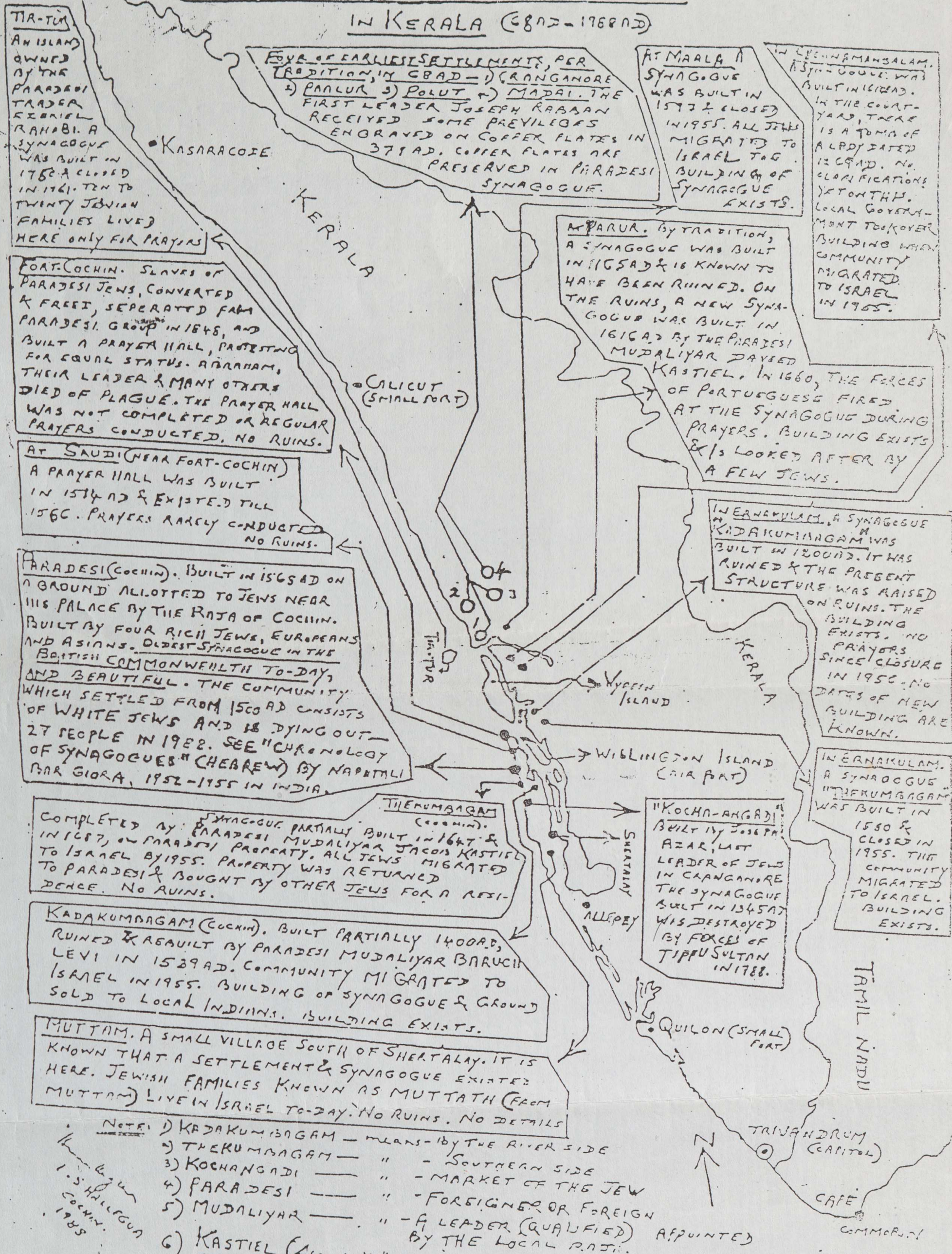


SETTLEMENTS & SYNAGOGUES OF JEWS IN KERALA (8AD-1768AD)



TIRUNELVELI

AN ISLAND OWNED BY THE PARADESI TRADER ABRAHAM. A SYNAGOGUE WAS BUILT IN 1760 & CLOSED IN 1761. TEN TO TWENTY JEWISH FAMILIES LIVED HERE ONLY FOR PRAYERS.

KASARACOSE

FOUR OF EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS, PER TRADITION, IN 8AD - 1) CRANGANORE 2) PARLUR 3) POLUT 4) MADAI. THE FIRST LEADER JOSEPH RABAN RECEIVED SOME PRIVILEGES ENGRAVED ON COPPER PLATES IN 377 AD. COPPER PLATES ARE PRESERVED IN PARADESI SYNAGOGUE.

AT MARLA A SYNAGOGUE WAS BUILT IN 1572 & CLOSED IN 1955. ALL JEWS MIGRATED TO ISRAEL TO BUILDING OF SYNAGOGUE EXISTS.

IN LECHEMANANSALAM, A SYNAGOGUE WAS BUILT IN 1660. IN THE COURT-YARD, THERE IS A TOMB OF ALDY DATED 1260 AD. NO CLASSIFICATIONS YET ON THE LOCAL GOVT. MOUNT TO COVER BUILDING WHEN COMMUNITY MIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1965.

AT PARUR. BY TRADITION, A SYNAGOGUE WAS BUILT IN 1165 AD & IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RUINED. ON THE RUINS, A NEW SYNAGOGUE WAS BUILT IN 1616 AD BY THE PARADESI MUDALIYAR DAVED KASTIEL. IN 1660, THE FORCES OF PORTUGUESE FIRED AT THE SYNAGOGUE DURING PRAYERS. BUILDING EXISTS & IS LOOKED AFTER BY A FEW JEWS.

FORT COCHIN. SLAVES OF PARADESI JEWS, CONVERTED & FREED, SEPARATED FROM PARADESI GROUP IN 1648, AND BUILT A PRAYER HALL, PROTESTING FOR EQUAL STATUS. ABRAHAM, THEIR LEADER & MANY OTHERS DIED OF PLAGUE. THE PRAYER HALL WAS NOT COMPLETED & REGULAR PRAYERS CONDUCTED. NO RUINS.

AT SAUDI (NEAR FORT COCHIN) A PRAYER HALL WAS BUILT IN 1514 AD & EXISTED TILL 1560. PRAYERS RARELY CONDUCTED. NO RUINS.

PARADESI (COCHIN). BUILT IN 1565 AD ON A GROUND ALLOTTED TO JEWS NEAR HIS PALACE BY THE RATA OF COCHIN. BUILT BY FOUR RICH JEWS, EUROPEANS AND ASIANS. OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH TO-DAY, AND BEAUTIFUL. THE COMMUNITY WHICH SETTLED FROM 1500 AD CONSISTS OF WHITE JEWS AND IS DYING OUT - 27 PEOPLE IN 1982. SEE "CHRONOLOGY OF SYNAGOGUES" (HEBREW) BY NARATHI BAR GIORA, 1952-1955 IN INDIA.

COMPLETED BY SYNAGOGUE PARTIALLY BUILT IN 1647 & IN 1687, ON PARADESI PROPERTY. ALL JEWS MIGRATED TO ISRAEL BY 1955. PROPERTY WAS RETURNED TO PARADESI & BOUGHT BY OTHER JEWS FOR A RESIDENCE. NO RUINS.

KADAKUMBAGAM (COCHIN). BUILT PARTIALLY 1400 AD, RUINED & REBUILT BY PARADESI MUDALIYAR BARUCH LEVI IN 1529 AD. COMMUNITY MIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1955. BUILDING OF SYNAGOGUE & GROUND SOLD TO LOCAL INDIANS. BUILDING EXISTS.

MUTTAM. A SMALL VILLAGE SOUTH OF SHEETALAY. IT IS KNOWN THAT A SETTLEMENT & SYNAGOGUE EXISTED HERE. JEWISH FAMILIES KNOWN AS MUTTATH (FROM MUTTAM) LIVE IN ISRAEL TO-DAY. NO RUINS. NO DETAILS.

THEKUMBAGAM (COCHIN)

"KOCHAN-ANGADI" BUILT BY JOSEPH AZAR, LAST LEADER OF JEWS IN CRANGANORE. THE SYNAGOGUE BUILT IN 1345 AD WAS DESTROYED BY FORCES OF TIPPU SULTAN IN 1788.

IN ERNAKULAM. A SYNAGOGUE - "THERUMBAGAM" WAS BUILT IN 1580 & CLOSED IN 1955. THE COMMUNITY MIGRATED TO ISRAEL. BUILDING EXISTS.

IN ERNAKULAM. A SYNAGOGUE BUILT IN 1200 AD. IT WAS RUINED & THE PRESENT STRUCTURE WAS RAISED ON RUINS. THE BUILDING EXISTS. NO PRAYERS SINCE CLOSURE IN 1950. NO DATES OF NEW BUILDING ARE KNOWN.

Thiruv

WILKINGDON ISLAND (AIR PORT)

WILKINGDON ISLAND (AIR PORT)

SACATRAY

ALLEPEY

QUILON (SMALL FORT)

TRIVANDRUM (CAPITAL)

CAPE COMMUNITY

TAMIL NADU

Some Prominent Paradesi families who settled in Cochin & Cochin:

1. KASTIEL - originates from Spain (CASTILE). Was in Cochin 15th century. Came to Cochin in 1510 AD. Was a family. Built several Synagogues (See Map). Was designated MUDALIYAR by the Dutch Governor.
 2. LEVY - originates from Germany & Spain. Also built several Synagogues in Cochin (See Map). First MUDALIYAR of Jews, designated in 1546 AD. one of 4 builders of Paradesi Synagogue. Several LEVITES were in Cochin in 12th century.
 3. ZACKAI - Veteran settler of Cochin. Originates from KURDISTAN. There were ZACKAIS in Rayon Baran, Cilicia & Cochin until early 20th century.
 4. ASHKENAZI & ROTTENBURG - both from Hamburg, Germany. Former was in Cochin, Bombay & Calcutta is early as 1550 AD. Latter reached Cochin early 17th century. The latter helped to erect the Dutch clock tower, near the Synagogue of Cochin.
 5. HALLEGUA - is seen in Spain (CANCANIZ) in 14th century. Mein Hallegua participated in the famous Toledo-Christian Disputation at Tortosa Spain in 1412 AD (by Don Don Vidalashav V. V. & SHEVET YSHUDA - books of 1890 AD & 1550 AD). Arrived in Cochin from Aleppo (Syria) in 1586. Owners of large areas of Cochin & Rio farms 1507 to 1571. He Hallegua lived in USA, Lon, Madrid, Paris, Turkey, several parts in Israel as HALEVA and in Cochin. Was designated MUDALIYAR, early 17th century, by the Raja of Cochin.
 6. HEHEMIA BEN ABRAHAM - of Turkish/KURDISTANI origin. Died in Cochin in 1616 AD. A Pious Jew. His tomb is maintained & worshipped by Non-Jews even today in the old site of Kaniak. His relative SAIDI, a rich lady, married SAMUEL KASTIEL one of 4 builders of Paradesi Synagogue. She herself contributed all her wealth to construct the strong near walls & the HEICHAL of the Paradesi Synagogue in 1568.
 7. RAHABI - originates from RAHABA on banks of Euphrates. Reached Cochin in 1648 AD. Very prominent family of TRADERS, who had connections with Aleppo, Arab states of Persia, Tiffur Sultan of Mysore (India) and as diplomats of the Cochin Raja. The family collapsed financially mid 19th century. They are seen in RORY in Israel (Be'er-Sheva).
 8. PINTO - Portuguese Jew who settled in Damascus early 17th century, reached Cochin in 1664. Settled in Cochin as trader like the Dutch. Many PINTOS are seen in Israel today. The author lived in a FLAT 1980-85 in Israel. It was once lived by a PINTO. Collapsed financially mid 19th century. They are seen in RORY in Israel (Be'er-Sheva).
 9. ASHURAI - from ASHUR of Assyria. Reached Cochin early 18th century. Professional writers in Cochin. Some tomb stones are available as frag of dates.
 10. BELILA - Veteran of Cochin before 1500 AD. One of 4 builders of Paradesi Synagogue. Reached Cochin in 1512 AD. Originates from Jerusalem.
 11. SAADI - from SAADA in Yemen. 12. SASSOON - from SHIRAZ, Persia. In Cochin in 17th century.
 13. TOUFA - Yemenite family. 14. ZAVIV - Yemenite family. Reached Cochin 17th century. 15. COHEN - Cohens of Cochin originated from Baghdad, as well as Yemen. They were even "important" for religious services in Cochin. Priestly family who could have been in Cochin before 1500 AD & in Cochin after 1500 AD.
 16. KODOL - originates as KOZER (Harvestor) in Baghdad. Is not seen in any author's book from 1686 AD to 1874 AD. Merchants in Cochin since 1868.
 17. SARGON - Originates from central Europe. Is known in Cochin since 1868.
 18. SAAPHATI - ex France. Professional Writers in Cochin from 1700 AD.
- Prominent authors & their literature in Malabar Jews:
1. MOSES PEREIRA 1686 in "NOTICIAS DOS JUDEUS DE COCHIN". Visited Cochin in 1686.
 2. YABCOB SAPIA 1866 in "EBEN SAPIA" - Visited Cochin in 1860 & for East.
 3. SALOMON REINMAN - Austrian Jew in Cochin 1848-50-1851. "Travel of SALOMON" of Reinman in Cochin, he traded with in Ceylon, Borneo & Malabar. Died in Vienna in 1879. He considered as the best old source of history on Cochin Jewry. He was 31 years in Cochin, he traded with in Ceylon, Borneo & Malabar. Died in Vienna in 1879.
 4. EZRAH RAHABI - a letter of his 1768 to TOVIAS BOAZ, a Dutch Jew who helped the Malabar (India) Jews & the Paradesi (white) Jews, their customs, prayers etc. much Cochin Jews. The letter discusses some details on the various groups of Jews in Malabar (India) Jews & the Paradesi (white) Jews, their customs, prayers etc.
 5. I. E. Hallegua - 1895, 1906. His letter to foreign Xmas author J. H. Lord & in the Jewish chronicle 1906. These letters contain considerable details on history and events, marriage customs etc.
 6. N. Ben Yehon (1952-1955) - Israeli Diplomat in India. Did considerable research and published "Chronology of Synagogue" as well as "Origins of Cochin Jews".
 7. N. E. Levy - 1910. A scholar of Cochin Jewry; wrote "History of Cochin Jews" (Hebrew).
 8. A. B. Solomon - 1927. Wrote his "Cochin Synagogue" - English.
 9. D. A. T. Simon - 1947. Wrote "Songs of Cochin Jews & their historical significance" - English.
 10. T. V. Parasuraman. An Indian Correspondent in the U.N for Press Trust of India. Author of "Contributions of Indian Jews - 1961" sold by Sagar Publishers, New Delhi.

10th: There are many more authors, articles left of Ashkenazi & Portuguese in Cochin & Malabar, in Israel, USA & UK.