

DeLeon Family

DIRECTORY

2000



yechaya deleon (1873 - 1944)

jamella alhadeff (1880 - 1943)

Yechaya's Family

Yechaya was born circa 1873, one of five children of Yehuda DeLeon and Miriam Hasson DeLeon. It is safe to assume that during the mid 1800s, Yehuda and Miriam lived somewhere in the Mediterranean, probably Rhodes.

Yehuda DeLeon and Miriam Hasson DeLeon bore five children:

Yechaya (born circa 1873)
Rachel
Jacob
Haim
Raphael

We have no family history of Yechaya's mother, Miriam Hasson. Nor, do we have any birth dates of Yechaya's siblings.

Although we have no ancestry dates, we have discovered that Yechaya's father, Yehuda was one of seven children:

Yehuda
Behor
Samuel
Nissem
Joseph
Estrea
Avner

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the following DeLeon family members
whose memory we will always cherish.

Family Member	Memorial Date
Our First Generation Family Members	
Jamella Alhadeff DeLeon	09/20/43
Yechaya DeLeon	04/04/44
Our Second Generation Family Members	
Leonore Leon Merdjan	03/17/59
Jack Arogeti	06/26/59
Estrea DeLeon Benator	07/31/60
Victor Franco	07/04/65
Marie DeLeon Franco	05/04/82
Victor Benator	01/29/85
Allegra Capelouto DeLeon	05/12/86
Allegra Leon Gattegno	06/28/90
Nissim Merdjan	03/19/92
Ezra DeLeon	11/22/93
Regina DeLeon Arogeti	09/09/94

THE FAMILY OF JAMELLA ALHADEFF (D) & YECHAYA DELEON (D)

The DeLeon Name

As we begin to record the history of our ancestors, Jamella and Yechaya, we would like to acknowledge an interesting fact about the name DeLeon.

Our cousin Esther Merdjan Franses (de Leonore and Nissim Merdjan) states "...we always knew the name as plain Leon. There were lots of members of the Leon family in Salisbury, whom we knew to be cousins of my Mom, who always knew her maiden name as Leon."

Cousin Victor DeLeon (de Ezra and Allegra DeLeon) writes, "Regarding the name Leon vs DeLeon: Ezra's immigration papers had the name Leon. His cousin Chaya (Harry) also used the name Leon. When Ezra came to Seattle, his uncles Jacob and Haim and cousins used the name DeLeon, thus this is the name he used."

"According to Gordon DeLeon, son of Haim, the name DeLeon was due to the fact that they were originally from the Spanish province of Leon, "De" meaning "of" in Spanish."

The descendants in the USA came to know and call their family name: DeLeon. We are using the name DeLeon for purposes of recording this book. It is important to consider the two names: DeLeon and Leon, as we continue our search into our family's history.

The Early Years
Yechaya DeLeon and Jamella Alhadeff

In the early 1890s on the beautiful island of Rhodes, Yechaya DeLeon met and married Jamella Alhadeff. According to her neighbors, Jamella was one of the most beautiful ladies in Rhodes. They began their life together ... Yechaya had a neighborhood grocery store and Jamella took care of their family.

Yechaya and Jamella DeLeon bore six children:

Estrea	09/28/1895
Regina	12/31/1899
Marie	06/16/01*
Ezra	03/28/01*
Allegra	10/21/05
Leonore	03/03/10

According to a video taped interview of Regina DeLeon Arogeti's recollections, there were two sons born to Jamella and Yechaya...one was born before Estrea and one born before Regina. However, cousin Victor DeLeon remembers his father Ezra talking about 2 daughters who died at a young age. One died as an infant; the other died as a teenager. His father, Ezra did not mention any sons. There are no further recollections about these children.

Migration from Rhodes

In the early 1900s, Estrea, Regina, Marie and Ezra migrated from Rhodes and settled in the USA. Estrea came to the US first. There, Estrea married Victor Benator. Regina, Marie and Ezra followed thereafter. Regina and Marie settled in Atlanta, GA. Regina married Jack Arogeti in 1922. Marie married Victor Franco. Ezra settled in Seattle, WA and married Allegra Capelouto.

Allegra and Leonore migrated to other parts of the globe. Allegra married Moise Gattegno and migrated to the Belgium Congo (Jodotville) where they lived before finally settling in Cape Town. Leonore migrated to the Congo and married Nissim Merdjan in 1931. Leonore and Nissim then moved to Salisbury Rhodesia.

In 1941, Jamella and Yechaya decided to leave Rhodes and come to Atlanta, GA to be with their children: Estrea, Regina, Marie and Ezra. They traveled to Naples, Italy to depart for the USA.

According to Victor DeLeon's recollections of his father Ezra, Yechaya wanted to conduct some business transactions before leaving Rhodes. Unfortunately, because of this delay, they arrived in Naples too late to make connections for the last ship leaving from Naples to America. Because of WWII, they were unable to obtain visas to leave Italy. They decided to remain in Naples where they lived for three years with the Modiano family.

It was in Naples when Jamella became sick and died September 20, 1943. Yechaya died April 4, 1944, six months after his beloved wife. Both are buried in Naples, Italy.





Allegra and Leonore
with parents, Yechaya
and Jamella.

- Above photo circa
early 1920.

- Left photo circa mid
to late 1920.



Their Memory is Treasured

Today, more than a century after the birth of Jamella and Yechaya, we, their descendants treasure their memory and honor their children.

Jamella Alhadeff DeLeon Born: 1880, Rhodes, Italy
Died: 09/20/43 Naples, Italy

Yechaya DeLeon Born: 1873 Rhodes, Italy
Died: 04/04/44 Naples, Italy

Their Children: Birthdate Memorial Date

Estrea DeLeon Benator 09/28/1895 07/31/60
Victor Benator 05/02/1891 01/29/85

Regina DeLeon Arogeti 12/31/1899 09/09/94
Jack Arogeti 02/20/1894 06/26/59

Marie DeLeon Franco 06/16/01* 05/04/82
Victor Franco 04/01/1896 07/04/65

Ezra DeLeon 03/28/01* 11/22/93
Allegra Capelota DeLeon 08/16/11 05/12/86

Allegra Leon Gattegno 10/21/05 06/28/90
Moise Gattegno 05/07/02

Leonore Leon Merdjan 03/03/10 03/17/59
Nissim Merdjan 04/10/07 03/19/92

*Ezra's son Victor notes "there is some discrepancy regarding Marie and Ezra's birthdates. Ezra did not know his birthdate. There is speculation that he made his year of birth one year older in order to obtain passage to the USA."

estrea benator

alice wiener . . . morris benator . . . josiah benator . . .
emily levine . . . ralph benator . . . vicky braverman

regina arogeti

joe arogeti . . . james arogeti . . . lenora levy . . .
raymond arogeti . . . emily steinman . . . sylvia capouano

mary franco

david franco

ezra deleon

jack deleon . . . stan deleon . . . victor deleon

allegra gattegno

isaie gattegno . . . elie gattegno . . . victor gattegno . . .
salvator gattegno

leonore merdjan

esther franses . . . emilie loewenheim