

# Family and Fabric

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# Family and Fabric

**The Spanjaards: a Jewish manufacturing  
family in the Netherlands (1800-2000)**

Marianka Spanjaard & Paul Denekamp



**Walburg Pers**



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# Foreword

The family association, Berith Salom, was established on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1861 by the children of Salomon Jacob Spanjaard and Sara David van Gelder who were then celebrating their golden wedding anniversary.

A century and a half later this association still exists. It is one of the largest and oldest family associations in the Netherlands and remains as vibrant as ever. It is really very special that in this day and age Berith Salom remains so actively engaged with the goals formulated in 1861 and that so many members, generation after generation, step forward to contribute to the association.

It therefore gives me great pleasure that, with an eye to this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, two members of our family, Marianka van Lunteren-Spanjaard and Paul Denekamp, took the initiative in 2009 to write a book on the rich history of the Spanjaard family.

Up to now the *Mishpagazette*, our family association newsletter, has been where research on our ancestors has been published. *Family and Fabric* provides a much more complete picture of our forefathers, their fifteen children, the history of the rise and loss of the Twente textile firm linked to the family name, how the Second World War impacted on descendants, their distribution across the globe, how the Jewish character of the association has been interpreted, and how the association has weathered many a storm.

I am convinced that this book is not only of importance to every member of our family, but also for historians and others interested in Jewish history, family history and the rise and fall of the textile industry in Twente.

Walburg Press has kindly published the book for which we are most grateful. In order to make distribution possible outside the Netherlands, an English translation has also been prepared.

On behalf of Berith Salom I would like to thank the authors warmly for their commitment, enthusiasm and perseverance. I should also like to thank all those who likewise selflessly helped with the preparation of this book. In particular I would like to express our gratitude to cousin Clare Dean – née Roskill, who graciously took responsibility for editing the English translation, ensuring it was as clear as possible

while keeping close to the Dutch. She worked meticulously with the Dutch authors to achieve this. Moreover I am indebted to the sponsors and those family members whose financial contributions made publication possible.

I hope this book will be an important document for future generations of Spanjaards and will contribute to the preservation of our very special association.

Evert van den Bergh,  
Berith Salom chairman



# Introduction

When we first discussed writing a Spanjaard book for the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the family association Berith Salom in May 2011 we were both immediately enthusiastic.

It is exceptional that there should still be a sense of shared community within a family that has spread out so widely. In this our family association has fulfilled a key role. We are now a century and a half old and eight generations on from our ancestors. It is difficult to say exactly what these shared feelings are. In Dutch we refer to a *joods minimum van het tijdsgewricht* which can roughly be translated as “a Jewish sense of time”.

After some brief preparatory work in 2009, we really began to get started in 2010. Archives and libraries were combed. Thanks to Eric Fischer’s exceptional dissertation, much was already known about the Spanjaard factory in Borne. We immersed ourselves intensively in the family and its stories for a year and this has permitted us to produce a more nuanced, more complete picture of the Spanjaard family. It became clear that this history was certainly not only determined by successful entrepreneurs, but also by those who did not become particularly wealthy. For the Spanjaard family, Borne was indeed the beginning but most definitely not the end. We also saw social, economic and religious developments in the Spanjaard family that often paralleled developments in the Netherlands and even across Europe.

The Second World War represents a sharp break for the family. Thereafter things were never as they had been before. Yet life for the Spanjaards resumed, as much as was possible.

Now it is 150 years since Salomon and Sarah’s golden anniversary. What a shame that those who established Berith Salom cannot know what a large and successful association it has become!

When we presented the idea of a book on the Spanjaard family to the Berith Salom board they thought it a good plan. Creating such a book, however, is not only a matter of research and writing, but also of organisation. As the book had to be produced relatively quickly we divided the work. Chapters 1 and 4, the Intermezzo on the artists, and, in chapter 5, the section on the factory and entrepreneurs, were written by Paul Denekamp.

Chapters 2 and 3 and the rest of chapter 5 were written by Marianka Spanjaard.

The board decided that the writers need not concern themselves with the business side of the book's production, but should focus their time on the research and writing. That was really a good idea!

Our project leader Nynke Grünfeld sheltered us from these other tasks. She took care of the search for sponsors, the contacts with Walburg Press, and the organisation and compiling of reports for meetings. Her help in these matters and the stimulus and encouragement she provided were all done naturally and efficiently.

During our hunt for all things Spanjaard we were assisted with great dedication and enthusiasm by Anja Tanke at the municipal archives in Borne. She knows what lies hidden within their boxes and files. We want to thank her for her indispensable assistance. We also wish to acknowledge the kind help of Jaap Grootenboer who never refused to share with us his deep knowledge of Borne and its residents.

During the writing of this book we received much support from the feedback group which consisted of Piet Leupen, retired professor of medieval history; Hetty Berg, Museum Affairs Manager at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam; and Hans Schogt, editor at Sdu Publishers. They offered valuable comments on every chapter. Their watchful eye and knowledge helped us avoid a number of pitfalls. In order to limit the inevitable differences between two authors, Hans Schogt also took upon himself the final editing of the manuscript.

Denise Citroen is responsible for the diagrams that explain the sometimes complicated family relations. Willem Schalekamp took many photographs for the illustrations. Janine Grünfeld was responsible for the organisation of the illustrations, no small task given that there were more than one hundred photographs, prints and other images. Doriann Kransberg performed miracles with the photographs. We want to thank all of these people most warmly for the selfless contribution of their time and effort.

Our greatest appreciation, however, goes to the countless family members who upon request, immediately and as a matter of course, dived into their old letters and photo albums as well as into their own past and memories. We thank them for the trust they placed in us.

Paul Denekamp  
Marianka Spanjaard

Amsterdam/Den Haag  
January 2011

## Chapter 1

# From pedlar to manufacturer (1800-1850)

### Adoption of the family name

The history of the Spanjaard family begins on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1812. That day a local Jewish resident, Salomon Jacobs, appeared at Borne's town hall where he declared that he wished to take the family name of 'Spanjaard'. He then signed the relevant certificate as Salomon Jakobs Spanjaard.<sup>1</sup> Salomon's declaration was in French, the Netherlands having been incorporated into the French Empire in 1810. Emperor Napoleon had decreed that all subjects within his empire were to register with a permanent family name. The prime reason for this registration was the establishment of conscription. Dutchmen were obliged to fight in the French armies then preparing to invade Russia. Salomon himself, however, was not called up.

So far as can be ascertained, Salomon did not use the name Spanjaard before March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1812. There is only one previous document on which his name appears and this does not include 'Spanjaard'. It reads: on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1811 Salomon Jacob and Sara David

Salomon Jacobs adopts the family name 'Spanjaard', March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1812.

