

# JEWES OF ORANGE COUNTY

## OUR STORY

### WHY JEWS CAME TO ORANGE COUNTY

*Jews faced crushing poverty and horrific persecution in Europe and European colonies. They emigrated to the United States in the hope of escaping antisemitism and living their lives free from the fear and hate they had faced for over 2,000 years.*



1900

This illustration from the early 1900s shows the heavy weight that oppression causes to all who are its victims: robbery, cruelty, murder, assassination, autocracy, deception. In this case it's the Jews, but the cost is the same to any group that is oppressed.

The man in the center is Jewish, and he is being dragged by a mob armed with pickaxes and sticks while the police look on and do nothing. Unfortunately, this situation was commonplace.



A husband and wife lie dead after their house has been ransacked by an antisemitic mob; the rabbi prays for them while a relative weeps and the community gathers at the door.

Jewish family members look for relatives in the aftermath of yet another pogrom in Poland. The perpetrators were almost never punished; a pogrom was considered "par for the course" and officials often initiated and participated in the death and destruction.

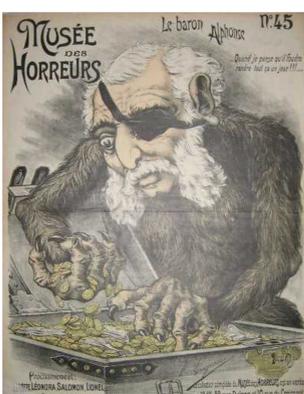


One of the typical outcomes of a pogrom is that the Jews would then be forced to leave their community, where they had often lived for hundreds of years, taking nothing with them but what they could carry. Those who had caused the damage would then take over the Jewish houses and property for their own. This happened over and over and over.



Pogroms didn't just happen in Europe. They occurred wherever Jews lived; including in Africa and the Middle East. This is an illustration from just such a riot in Algiers, where Orange County Jewish pioneer Hippolyte Cahen was born in 1847. It was likely why he left for America, which offered the hope of freedom from hate and fear, when he was 21.

Caricature depicting a Russian peasant wearing an official Tsarist army hat dragging a young Jewish woman by her hair, while her community burns in the background.



The dangers of stereotyping and "othering" a minority group are well known. By demonizing anybody who is part of that group, hate is created and emboldened, leading to crimes of varying degrees against the group being targeted. Depicting a Jew as a hairy money-grabbing ape created just such hate.