

Grace Seixas Nathan

Grace Seixas Nathan, Emma Lazarus' great-grandmother, was born in New York (or Stratford, Connecticut, according to some sources) on November 11, 1752. Grace was not only a member of an illustrious family, but also a poet. Thanks to Jewish Archives and several publications, we know that she wrote at least nineteen poems and many letters, although none of them were published during her lifetime (Schor 3-4).

"Reflections on Passing Our New Burial Ground" was "... written on the occasion of the establishment of a new cemetery by New York's Congregation Shearith Israel in 1829" (Snyder).

Grace Seixas Nathan died in New York on November 8, 1831.

Sources

Schor, Esther. *Emma Lazarus*. New York: Schocken Books, 2017.

Snyder, Holly. "Grace Seixas Nathan, 1752-1831." *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*. <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/seixas-nathan-grace>. Viewed on November 9, 2020.



Portrait by Henry Inman, circa 1820. Schor 4