**Rabbi Moshe Weinberger (1854-1940)**

**Introduction**

In 1880, there were approximately 250,000 Jews living in the United States. Most of them were either immigrants or descendants of immigrants from Central Europe. However, beginning in 1881, large numbers of Jews began to arrive from Eastern Europe and Russia. The assassination of Czar Alexander II in March of 1881 sparked anti-Jewish riots and massacres in many Jewish communities. These were followed by the passage of laws that severely restricted the lives of Jews in Eastern Europe and Russia. Most of these restrictions were economic, political, and physical persecution led to a massive emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe and Russia. By 1883, approximately 250,000 Jews were living in the United States. Most of them were either immigrants or descendants of immigrants from Central Europe and Russia.

**Sketch of Rabbi Weinberger's Life**

Rabbi Moshe Weinberger was born in Hungary in 1854 and studied under several noted Torah scholars, among them Rabbi Moshe Sofer. Weinberger moved to New York City in 1883 and became the rabbi of Congregation Beth Hamedrash Hagodol in Brooklyn, New York.

**Congregation Beth Hamedrash Hagodol Anshei Ugarn**

In 1885, Rabbi Weinberger returned to New York to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Hamedrash Hagodol Anshei Ugarn in the Lower East Side. His congregation was largely composed of immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia.

**Some of his congregants were openly scornful of his efforts to found a high-level yeshiva.**

Rabbi Weinberger dreamed of founding a high-level yeshiva in America. In 1887, Weinberger published a book encouraging Jews not to waste their time on unimportant matters and to endeavor to fill normally empty synagogue pews.

In 1895, Rabbi Weinberger founded the first advanced yeshivah in America, as well as his strong conviction of the state of Jews in New York during the 1880s.

**NOTES**


2. Ibid., page 24.

3. Ibid., pages 24 - 25.


7. See kevarim.wordpress.com/category/union-field-cemetery/