

Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations



NEWSLETTER

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(A) Election of Office Bearers and Committee For 1996.

With the exception of the retirement of Professor Sol Encel, the office bearers and committee of the Society were re-elected at the annual general meeting of the Society. Mr Bitel will be co-opted to the committee.

(B) The AJHS Move to Mandelbaum House

The AJHS will be shifting its office and archives to Mandelbaum House, the new Jewish Residential College on the campus of Sydney University, in February 1996. For 40 years, the Society has enjoyed the generosity and co-operation of the Great Synagogue and its staff which is remembered with gratitude.

The expansion of the records and archives of the AJHS has resulted in our outgrowing the space which the Great Synagogue could make available and the search for larger premises has been ongoing for a number of years. Thanks to three men, Nate Zusman, Rabbi Apple and Professor Crown, the Society was offered a suitable room in the new Mandelbaum House which is located at 385 Abercrombie Street, Darlington NSW 2008.

The Jewish Communal Appeal has agreed to finance the essential equipment required at the new location and the fairly expensive moving costs. Members and supporters will be approached at a later date to provide funds for important additional equipment such as a micro-film printer and a computer, and members are reminded that donations to the AJHS library are tax deductible.

This is an important milestone in the history of the Society, and a function to mark the occasion will be held at Mandelbaum House in the near future.

(C) The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ)

On behalf of the AJHS our President, Mr Dennis Bluth, extends warmest congratulations to AJHS member, Diane Shteinman, on being elected President of the ECAJ.

(D) From the Archives

(i) The following donations have been received with thanks :

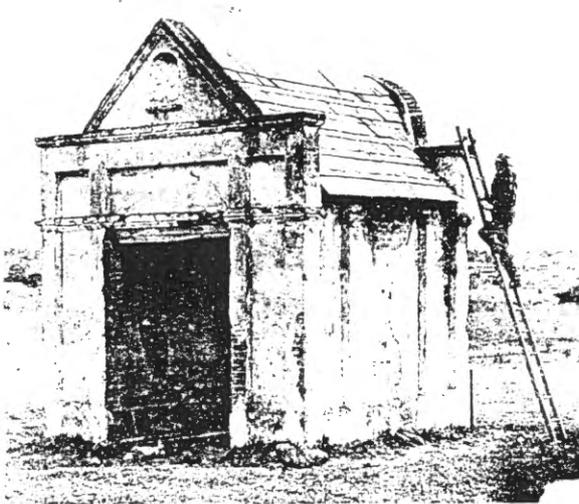
- Mr Justice Brian Cohen. *Silver trowel* in presentation box presented to Judge John Jacob Cohen on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the NSW Jewish War Memorial - 28 February 1923.
- Rabbi Apple. *Frances Lyon Cohen - The Passionate Patriot*.
- Helen Bersten. *Jewish Sydney. The First Hundred Years 1788-1888*.
[This excellent publication by the AJHS is available for sale at \$6.50 per copy plus postage. It makes an ideal gift for visitors to Sydney - Ed.]
- Photographs from the Maitland Cemetery clean-up in October 1995 donated by Garry Braude. This work was undertaken by the community support group of the North Shore Temple Emanuel. The deplorable state of the cemetery prior to the clean-up is quite clear from the photographs.
- Sydney Levine. Invitation card to attend a public meeting for the German Jewish Refugee Appeal in May 1933.
- *Judaism in Australia* by Professor W.D. Rubinstein.
- Allan Clark of Nowra. *The Waratahs*. South Coast Recruiting March 1915. This includes a detailed listing of volunteers, one of whom, Cyril Stanley Brandon, although Anglican had parents Samuel and Sarah Brandon of Kiama.
- Allan Lesnie. The donation of a number of past journals and other valuable material. By chance the *Seminario Rabbinico* (the only Rabbinical Seminary in South America) has written to the AJHS asking if we could donate copies of our Journal, and Mr Lesnie has agreed that part of his donation could be used towards this end.
- Article in the University of Sydney News (6 September 1995) *Still Singing Through Adversity*. Concerns the discovery of music composed by Boas Bischofswerder in the Hay Internment Camp. The composition *Phantasia Judaica* was written for violin in 1942 and performed in the camp.

(ii) Requests for Information :

- Sapper Lipman Cohen No. 3359. Listed in the Roll of Honour for WWI I. His address is given as the Royal Hotel, Watson's Bay, and the next of kin is given as N. Cohen of 56 Beaumont Street, Newcastle.

- Included in *Jewish Sydney* is a photograph at page 35 of Cohen's Family Hotel located at the corner of Margaret and York Street. Does anyone have information on which Cohen family this is?
- Arlene Sachs of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Washington DC, is part of a group who is collecting worldwide data on Jewish Cemeteries. For further information contact the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, PO Box 154, Northbridge NSW 2063.

(D) "The Goulburn Synagogue"



The Town and Country Magazine (25 September, 1995) carried as its lead story the restoration of an "historic Jewish synagogue in Goulburn". Located on Landsdowne Estate in the southeast outskirts of the city, the "synagogue" was built by the original property manager for Landsdowne, a Mr Samuel Emanuel. Dating back to 1825, Lansdowne is Goulburn's oldest homestead and farming complex and is now owned by Mr and Mrs Lee.

The roof of the building has been replaced with cedar shingles, the outer brickwork has been repaired, and new window frames and stained glass windows have been crafted for the building.

Rabbi Apple has visited the area and recognises the building as a Synagogue. He is advising the owners on its restoration.

(E) Jewish Place Names in New South Wales (from JM & LO Stanhope)

The September newsletter on Jewish place names in South Australia, by Mr Ochert has drawn the following information from John Stanhope on two Jewish place names in NSW:

Montefiores - a village about 2 kms. north of Wellington.

Jews' Flat - now named "Bunyan" is 5 kms north of Cooma. This was first called "Reid's Flat" after Dr Reid who settled there around 1830. The Jewish merchant Abraham Moses supplied goods to the scattered Monaro pioneers from about 1834, and had a pasturage licence in 1837. He operated the Squatters Arms Inn at Reid's Flat from 1838. Solomon Solomon and Samuel Shannon who married the sisters Rachel and Emelia Abrahams in 1840 and 1841 respectively at Sydney's Bridge Street Synagogue, operated the inn and general

store 1840-54. During this period the locality was popularly known as "Jews' Flat" and is so named in many documents although in other sources "Reid's Flat" persisted.

In 1858 the locality was officially named "Bunyan", in recognition of the aboriginal name meaning "pigeons' resting place".

(F) Jews of Mauritius

We have received from a Mr Michael Drouin of Mauritius an interesting article written by Mr Josef Deutsch during his imprisonment on the island during WW II. It is entitled *A Free World? No Concentration Camp, But Behind Prison Walls*. The story of the Jewish refugees interned on Mauritius is not unlike the Dunera story - nor is the treatment meted out to refugees who had committed no crime.

Mr Drouin is anxious that the typescript be publicised. He intends having it published with the purpose of attracting Jewish visitors and trade to Mauritius. The President of Club Shalom there doubles as the Israeli representative. The money from the publication will be used to maintain the cemetery where 75 Jews are buried. The island has a population of about 50 Jews.

(G) Auction Sale of the First Known Australian Kethuba

Unfortunately, the Society has had to return a treasured item which we have had on loan for 12 years. It is the first known Australian Kethuba written by Phillip Joseph Cohen for John Hart and Rebecca Moses (formerly Mary Connolly) dated 5591 (1831). The wedding was witnessed by Moses Brown and P. Solomon. We understand that the owner, Audrey Morris, intends to have the document auctioned in March by Christies.

(H) Lives of Service

I have recently received from Morris Ochert, the AJHS corresponding member for Queensland, several articles which I hope to print in the newsletter. The two reprinted here deal with two Australian Jews, Errol Myers and Abraham Fryberg, who gave outstanding service to public health and medical services in Queensland. Mr Ochert advises that both are buried in the Jewish section of Toowong Cemetery.

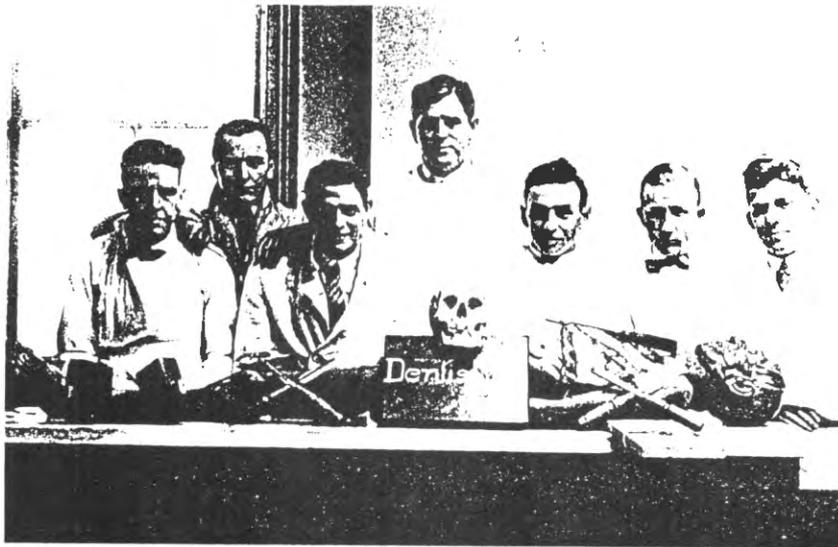
(i) - Dr. Errol Solomon Meyers (1890 - 1956)

Errol Meyers was born in South Brisbane in August 1890. His father married Savine Lenneberg of Brisbane whose family kept the Shakespeare Hotel in George Street. Initially educated at Southport State School, his wish to study medicine resulted in the family shifting to Sydney where his mother ran a guest house. To help pay his way as a student, he took a part-time appointment as a clinical clerk at the Gladesville Asylum. He graduated from

Sydney University in 1914 and then worked at Sydney Hospital, Hay, Cooma and Goulburn before becoming resident medical officer at Brisbane General Hospital.

In 1916 he enlisted in the Australian Army Medical corps, initially serving as RMO to the 41st Battalion in France where he was twice gassed.

In 1921 he became visiting surgeon on staff of the Brisbane General Hospital and later became the first licensed teacher of anatomy in Queensland, an appointment confirmed by Act of Parliament in 1925, and he was also made a member of the Joint Board of Dental Studies.



With dental students, Anatomy School, 1927.

Having had training and experience in the use of radium in London, Meyers became curator of radium in Brisbane and was a member of the committee of the early Federal Cancer Conference, the aim of which was to co-ordinate and approve research into and the treatment of cancer in the States. At the 1930 Royal Commission to inquire into the Queensland Public Hospitals, Meyers was chosen to represent the Queensland Medical Association.

As President of the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association he delivered an address on the need for a medical school in Queensland in 1932. The faculty was inaugurated in 1936 and in 1941 he was elected as its Dean. His standing as a medical educator was such that he was one of only two Australians to be invited to speak at the inaugural World Conference on Medical Education held in London in 1953.

In his honour, the annual E.S. Meyers Memorial Lecture is given at the Medical School of Queensland University. Recent lecturers have included Prof. Gustav Nossal, the late Dr Victor Chang and Mr Neal Blewett as the then Federal Minister for Health.

(ii) - Sir Abraham Fryberg (1900 - 1993)

Abraham Fryberg was born in Bendigo, one of six children of Henry and Rose (nee Marks). This was an Orthodox family and during his lifetime in Brisbane he was a member of both the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation and its Liberal Congregation. His secondary education was at Wesley College before he went on to study medicine at Melbourne University (this is briefly mentioned at the end of Lionel Fredman's article on Wesley College recently published in the AJHS Journal). After graduation in 1927 he went to Queensland first as registrar at Brisbane Hospital and then the Brisbane Children's Hospital. But he lost his right hand in a motor vehicle accident in 1934 which ended his hope of becoming a paediatrician.

He returned to Sydney to retrain in Public Health having taught himself to write with his left hand and returned to Brisbane where he became medical superintendent at the Elizabeth Kenny Clinic in George Street. Mr Ochert advises that Fryberg's support for the Kenny Method of the treatment of polio occurred despite great opposition within the medical profession. He was subsequently given responsibility for investigating the outbreak of a poliomyelitis epidemic between 1937-38. In the mid-1950s he inaugurated the mass inoculation of the population with the Salk vaccine. To overcome what he saw as parental trepidation, to wide publicity he injected his own son and then the children of Morris Ochert.

He enlisted for WWII and went to the Middle East with the 9th Division serving in Tobruk and El Alamein. As O.C. the 2/4 Field Hygiene Section he was responsible for developing and ensuring strict standards of hygiene which included the design of a widely-used flyproof latrine. This was the inspiration for his nickname "Flyberg of Flibya". He was mentioned in dispatches and was awarded an MBE in 1942 for his service in Tobruk. Mr Ochert quotes Fryberg as describing the siege of Tobruk as "absolute, nothing could enter or leave except the blow-flies for the whole 7 months". He subsequently retained his links with the Rats of Tobruk Association and became a life member of the Queensland Association of Jewish ex-servicemen and women.

Over many years he attended the ANZAC Day Commemoration at the Brisbane Synagogue, which consisted of the placement of a wreath on the Cenotaph, an inspection of the troops, a Memorial service and a re-union luncheon. From 1962 until 1967 he also enjoyed his appointment as Honorary Colonel to the RAAMC.

He worked as Queensland's Director-General of Health and Medical Services from 1947-67 (for which he was knighted on his retirement) and over this same period served on the Senate of the University of Queensland from which he received an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine in 1969. As Director General he oversaw that the substantial expansion of medical services both with respect to their specialisation and their expansion into the State's provincial centres.

During this time he also became concerned at the plight of numbers of Jewish doctors who had practised in Europe before the war, and successfully mitigated the requirements for needing to pass the whole six-year curriculum before resuming medical practice. Over many years he also assisted in arranging for medical services to be available for various Betar Camps.

His major recreation was racing. He served on the committee of the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club for nine years until 1968 when he retired to become Chairman of the Queensland Trotting Board.



(I) Death Of Karl Bittman

A long standing and distinguished member of the AJHS, Karl Bittman, recently passed away and the Society extends to his family its deepest sympathy.

(J) Benefactions For The Australian Jewish Historical Society

Members are invited to make a donation in the form of a Benefaction to the Society of \$250 or more in order to raise funds for special purchases to equip our new premises at Mandelbaum House. Items to be covered include a reader/printer, a computer, and the cost of microfilming the Great Synagogue marriage applications which date from 1878 (an example of which is attached), as well as other library and conservation requirements.

These items are additional to the essential storage requirements being purchased to enable the new premises to provide the most efficient and adequate housing for the ever-growing archives of the Society.

Benefactions will not take the place of annual membership fees, but will entitle the donor to be listed in the Journal as a Benefactor Member. The donations will also be tax-deductible as contributions to the Library Fund.

Please contact Miriam Solomon, Hon Treasurer, or Helen Bersten, Hon Archivist at the Society's address if any further information is required.

Declaration before Surrogate, District Registrar, or Minister.

(UNDER THE VICTORIA, No. 30. SCHEDULE D)

I, Mark Brodyak of Cooktown Queensland
"If objecting to take an oath, strike out the words "being duly sworn, do as my own declare."
 being duly sworn, do on my oath declare, do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm, that
"If an oath, either on the words, "do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm."
 I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection, by reason of any kindred, relationship, alliance, or any former marriage, or the want
 of consent of Parents or Guardians, or any other lawful cause to my being married to Sara Cohen
"Insert usual place of residence, and designation or employment."
 of Helen Miriam Green daughter of Henry Cohen
 of Helen William Le Koch Mark Brodyak

And I, the said Sara Cohen being duly sworn, do on my oath declare, do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm, that I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection, by any such reason or lawful cause as aforesaid, to my being married to the said Mark Brodyak.

Declared and sworn by the said
Mark Brodyak
 and declared and sworn by the said
Sara Cohen

"If sworn, insert the name of witness; if affirmed, insert the word "affirmed."
"Insert man's name."
"Insert woman's name."

the parties named this Fifth day of
March 1878, before me,

Aranda J. Lago

Bruce Le Bransky
 Newsletter Editor

Contributions to the Newsletter of the Society are most welcome.
 Please send to 385 Abercrombie Street, Darlington NSW 2008.

