

# Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations



## NEWSLETTER

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### 1. Archives

#### Purchased:

- *The Lost Jews of Cornwall* ed. By Keith Pearce and Helen Fry.
- *Safe haven. Records of the Jewish experience in Australia* by Malcolm Turnbull.
- *Sanctuary. Nazi fugitives in Australia* by Mark Aarons.
- *Letters from Belsen. An Australian nurse's experience with the survivors of war* by Muriel Doherty.
- *Stronger than Fiction. Jews and Christians are natural allies* by Mark Braham.

#### Received with thanks from:

- Rabbi Apple – *Jewish Life in Australia Today*. Pictorial publication of the Jewish Museum of Australia by Helen Light and Jenny Worth.
- Alison Davis – War record of Alan David Mitchell who died in 1915 as a result of wounds received at Gallipoli.
- Mrs. Maadi Einfeld – minutes and records from the King David School as kept by John Einfeld during his presidency in the 1960s.
- Mrs Joanna Nichols- photos of the interior of the Broken Hill synagogue.
- Jill Margo – *Frank Lowy-pushing the limits* by Jill Margo.

UK Census 1881 Victoria - The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society has copies.

### 2. Patron of the Society

Mr. Morris Forbes, OAM, has graciously accepted the Society's invitation to become our second patron replacing the late Mr. Harry Kellerman.

### 3. Personalia

Our sympathy to the family of our late patron Harry Kellerman, whose obituary appears in the June 2000 Journal.

Our sympathy also to our new patron, Mr. M.Z. Forbes on the death of his sister, Hannah Himmelferb.

Congratulations to our treasurer, Miriam Solomon, on the birth of her granddaughter.

Congratulations to our honorary historian, Louise Rosenberg, on the marriage of her granddaughter.

Thanks to the work of committee member Julius Mayer, the Society now has new signs at Mandelbaum House.

### 4. Indexes to Journals

Beverley Davis, hon. archivist and librarian of the AJHS (VIC), has produced the journal indexes on computer since volume 10. She is no longer doing this and the Society is seeking someone with computer skills to index volume 14. If you can help, please contact the office in Sydney on 9518 7596.

### 5. The Jews of Hay, New South Wales (by our hon. historian Louise Rosenberg)

Some of Hay's earliest townsfolk were Jewish. Their families played an important role in the first decades of the town's history and civic development. They were mostly storekeepers and businessmen who came from many parts of Europe.

*The Tarakover brothers from France:* Mitchell and Alfred Tarakover started in business in Hay in 1869 when Witcombe Bros built a store for them on the site now occupied by Japp's pharmacy. Alfred was elected to the first municipal council in 1872. He and his wife, Dinah, had eight children all of whom were born in Hay. Of these, Theodore, went on to become a famous swimmer winning gold in the Australian relay at the 1912 Olympic games. Mitchell and his wife, Elvina, had four children when they arrived in Hay and six more were born before they left in 1881. The brothers were involved in the Freemasons, the Athenaeum and the Hospital. Alfred remained in business in Hay until 1896, leaving to live in Sydney where he died in 1902. Mitchell died in Melbourne in 1929.

*Cohen brothers:* When Morris, Joseph and Augustus Cohen's store was erected in 1861 it was only the third store in Hay, and the first one in Lachlan Street. Tattersall's Hotel was later built just beside and to the north of it. A second brick store was added in 1867 and a weatherboard residence at the rear in 1868. Then fire struck the following year destroying the stores and after a salvage sale the Cohens left for Melbourne. From there they raised money for the Hay school building fund that enabled it to go ahead in 1869. They returned to Hay in 1871 to resume business but ill-health forced them to depart in 1873.

*The Moss brothers from Russia:* The Moss brothers' business began in Hay in 1859 with a hawker's wagon. Then in 1861, Louis and Abraham Moss started a store in Hay soon after

the Cohens, and on the opposite side of Lachlan Street from them. Their brother, Simon, who had been running their store in Deniliquin, joined them in 1863. During the Moss brothers' time in Hay they were noted for their generosity, contributing the bell for the new Presbyterian church in 1871 and the windows for the new Catholic church in 1874. Church of England services and Sunday school were being held in the large store at the back of their premises in 1866. Another example of their generosity was the 1871 Hay races when they provided a wagonload of eats and drinks for free refreshments for the crowd. Moss's store was sold to Henry Williams in 1861.

*Raphael brothers from Prussia:* Abraham (Alfred) Raphael was a jeweller and began business in Hay in a shop located on the corner of Moppett and Lachlan streets. His new two-storey brick store was built in 1877 beside the Cobb & Co coach factory. His family came from Schneidemel, Prussia. Alfred died in 1878 aged only 29 from an abscess on the brain. His brother Solly took over, then the business was sold to another brother Julius along with Herman Levy trading as J. Raphael & Co.

*Herman Levy:* Mr Levy was in Hay from 1878 until his sudden death in 1896 of a stroke, aged 55. He succeeded Mr Raphael in the jewellery business.

*Henry Bentwitch from Russia:* In 1874 Henry Bentwitch took the Old Brick Store, as it was known, in Lachlan Street near the first Masonic Hall (near the present Commercial Hotel). He also owned the Royal Hotel and the Academy of Music at the time of their sale in 1885.

*Henry Salomon from Germany:* Henry Salomon was a hawker who travelled in the Hay district from 1888. His hawker's wagon, built by Heyhoe & Baker in 1889, was the largest ever built in Hay. His beat included Mossgiel, Oxley and Carrathool and he began a store in Carrathool in 1893. While he was there he was instrumental in establishing the telephone line to Gunbar. He and Mr Maclure of Hay, together with Messrs Nixon and Simpson of Gunbar, put up a bond and guaranteed the Postal Department against any loss. He died in 1914 and was buried in Melbourne.

*Bennett Brothers:* Solomon, Alexander and John Bennett were nephews of Henry Salomon. They had stores in Booligal and Oxley, and took over the Carrathool store on the death of their uncle. They sold the store in 1926 because of failing health.

*Jewish Internees at Hay:* In September 1940 about 2000 Jewish men who had been bought to Australia on the Dunera were interned in Hay. They remained in these camps for about 9 months. During that time Mr Menasche Bodner died and was buried in the Hay cemetery in the Jewish section along Mr Raphael, Mr Levy and the Tartakover children. He had been born on 25 November 1886 at Wisni, Poland, and was buried on 25 November 1940, aged 54 years. The Jewish Dunera Association recently placed a headstone there.

Another internee at Hay, Fred Rose, recently made contact with the Society. He now lives in Toronto, Canada.

## **6. Rookwood Cemetery**

Members of the Jewish Genealogical Society are photographing and recording graves in the old section of Rookwood on Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> and again on 13th August. If you are interested

please phone Kim Phillips on 9878 1540. The Friends of Rookwood Cemetery conduct tours of the old section from time to time.

## **7. The 2000 Olympic Games and the Jewish Community**

SOJOC, the Jewish Olympic committee, is organising activities for Jewish visitors over the four weeks of the Olympics. The B'nai B'rith Centre and Hakoah Club will be information and drop-in centres. The Society has already sent in our logo and information for display (kindly designed by Julius Mayer).

Activities planned may be viewed on the SOJOC website [www.join.org.au/sojoc](http://www.join.org.au/sojoc) and a guide to Jewish Sydney is being produced in conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum. It is possible that the AJHS will again be conducting the "Jewish Sydney" tours on some Sundays during the period.

We will be purchasing one of the special commemorative limited edition medallions designed by Irwin Kurtz. These will be individually numbered and are to be produced in a limited batch of 500. They are endorsed by SOJOC under the auspices of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and members can order them through the AJHS at a cost of \$25.

## **8. Microfilm reader/printer**

The Society has purchased a microfilm reader/printer with the generous assistance of the JCA. It is able to print both A4 and A3 copies from microfilm and microfiche. We are charging 60c for the former and \$2 for the latter. These prices are in keeping with charges at the Mitchell Library.

We hold microfiche copies of Board of Deputies minutes 1945 to 1972; microfiche copies of Rookwood cemetery Jewish burials from 1930s to 1980s; microfilm copies of Great Synagogue births, deaths and marriages 1826 to 1980s, marriage application documents 1898 to 1920; Jewish Times 1953 to 1990, Maccabean Magazine 1944 to 1950, Jewish Herald 1879 to 1928 and index to the London Jewish Chronicle 1841 to 1890. We also have some London birth, death and marriage records covering 1770 to 1905.

## **9. International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims**

In late 1998, the United States National Association of Insurance Commissioners, in conjunction with several major European insurance companies, representatives of Jewish organizations and the State of Israel established the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. The International Commission has developed a process that provides Holocaust survivors and the heirs of Holocaust victims with a means for filing claims on unpaid insurance policies. The unique process provides the potential claimants with a central source for information on, investigation into and payment of unpaid policies.

The website for The Holocaust Era Insurance Claims Process can be visited on [www.icheic.org](http://www.icheic.org)

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome and can be sent C/- the Hon. Archivist at Mandelbaum House. *Bruce Le Bransky (Newsletter Editor)*