NEWSLETTER

The Australian Jewish Historical Society is a member of the JCA family of organisation

ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS

The President and Committee of the Australian Jewish Historical Society extends to all its readers its best wishes, *L'Shona Tova Tikatevu.* We hope it will be a good year for all Israel, and especially for the members of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE OFFICE - ON TIME AND ON BUDGET

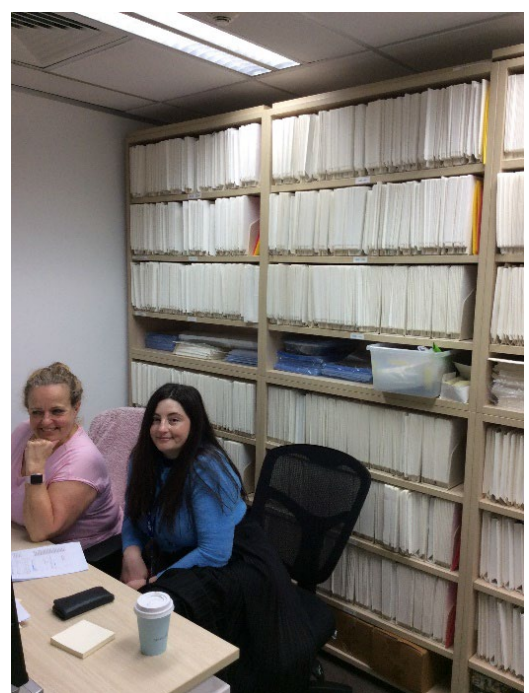*Photo 1*   *Photo 2*   *Photo 3*

Photo 1 – Increased workspace will now accommodate up to 5 interns, volunteers and/or researchers at the one time. The new bookcases comfortably hold the Reference Library, allowing for additions.
Photo 2 – The former meeting room has been converted and now provides additional archival storage.
Photo 3 – Second office showing the custom-built shelving housing 3,000+ archive files.

MEET "THE YOUNG ONES" AT THE AJHS

PAST INTERNS

Millie Mairead

My name is Millie. I am studying a Master of Information Management degree at Charles Sturt University. I contacted AJHS to work in the Archives field. At AJHS, I worked on the collections of the Great Synagogue, The North Shore Synagogue and conducted the QA on the transcripts of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society digitised audio. After spending one-and-a-half years working with the AJHS archives, and with referral from the Senior Archivist, Sabrina, I secured work at the State Library working as an archivist on a 3-month contract and am now in a permanent part-time position as an assistant Archivist with the Little Sisters of the Poor. During my time with AJHS, I acquired practical skills which have allowed me to continue to progress as an Archivist.

Chaya Kasif

My name is Chaya. I am a student in ancient Mesopotamian history with other interests in Jewish diasporic histories and local stories. I have worked as an Assistant Archivist at AJHS since 2018, cataloguing the main Compactus and Vertical File collections, the Louise Rosenberg and Rabbi Rudolph Brasch collections, as well as that on the Kimberley Scheme. I love working at AJHS because of the interesting treasures I find in the collections every day, and how much I have discovered about Australian Jewish history. AJHS is also a wonderfully welcoming community that makes you feel like a member of the family!

PRESENT INTERNS

Zali Harris

My name is Zali Harris. I am completing an Honours degree in History at the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus. I am currently in Melbourne working on the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society Collection for the AJHS. The work is all new to me, but I am really enjoying learning how archives work in a hands-on way, and I am excited to see what I have learned by the end of this Collection!

Catherine Banks

My name is Catherine, and I am studying a Master of Museum and Heritage Studies at the University of Sydney. I am currently working on the personal papers of Eliyahu Honig, the first Australian to play at the Maccabi games and the former Deputy Vice President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Although I am early in my internship, what I am enjoying most about my work so far is the experience of putting together the pieces of someone's life from their documents. I am looking forward to continuing my project and gaining a deeper insight into the AJHS's archives.

Ailish Schneider

My name is Ailish, and I am a master student at the University of Sydney. My master is in museum and heritage, and my undergraduate degree was in ancient history and archaeology with specialisation in Egyptian and Near Eastern history. In 2020, I participated in a 3-week archaeological excavation in Israel at the site of Khirbet al-Ra'i. After the excavation and experiencing Jewish culture and history, when I saw an opportunity to intern at the Australia Jewish Historical Society, I was excited to join. My project is to conduct archive administration of the Sydney Jewish Museum Institutional Archives Collection. I have assisted AJHS in arranging the collection into appropriate series and am working through describing, researching, itemising, and numbering the material according to current archival practices. I am thoroughly enjoying my time with AJHS and appreciate the friendliness and kindness of all staff and members I have encountered thus far. It has been exciting to learn the history of AJHS along with SJM all while developing and improving my collections management/research and archival skills.

Olivia Williams
I have nearly completed my Master's in Museum and Heritage Studies, and I was fortunate enough to join AJHS as part of the University of Sydney Internship program earlier this year. In early 2020, I spent three weeks excavating an archaeological site in Israel – Khirbet El-Ra'I (tentatively identified as the site of Ziklag), so I jumped at the opportunity to become involved in Australian Jewish History. Sabrina's expert mentorship and incredible generosity with her skills and her time, meant that after completing my internship I simply couldn't bear to leave! Since being at AJHS, I have worked across many of our incredible collections, to name a few: The Australian Union of Jewish Students, The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, The Bankstown Hebrew Congregation, and currently the Institutional Archives of the Sydney Jewish Museum. I have loved every moment at AJHS, but one of my favourite aspects of my time here has been the opportunity to connect with and assist all the different members of our Jewish Community who come wondering through our door looking to share or find their history.
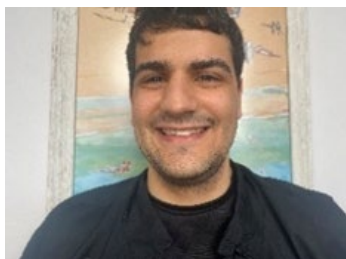

Aleksandra Belevska
My name is Aleksandra. I am a Bachelor of Arts Honours student at the Australian Catholic University, completing a thesis on archaeological museums in the digital space. I have completed a bachelor's degree in Archaeology from Macquarie University, majoring in Near East and Egypt, where I had the opportunity to excavate Khirbet el-Rai in Israel (2019). This opened me up to Israel's history and my passion for the country, people and varying cultures grew. Although my interest lies in ancient history, the opportunity to discover Israel's more recent history was pertinent to my overall understanding of the land. Working at AJHS has provided me this gap in knowledge which I believe is valuable for all ancient and modern historians, as cultures do not happen in a vacuum but continue to shape over time. I am currently working on the Max Joseph collection. What I have found most interesting about my work is that within every page, Max's life unfolds in front of my eyes, allowing me to gain a better understanding of what life was like around World War II for the Jewish community, both in Australia and abroad. The best part about working at AJHS are the people, who have been welcoming, friendly and full of wonderful historical facts. It's an enjoyable, fun, and laid-back workplace, with tremendous care provided to all by Sabrina and Olivia.

VOLUNTEER

Daniel Greenberg
My Name is Daniel. I am a Bachelor of Medical Science graduate with the dream of eventually becoming a doctor. I am currently working as a Wards Person at the Northern Beaches Hospital. What drew me to AJHS is that it has given me the opportunity to serve my community in a way that has a positive long-term impact. I have worked on Benzion Patkin, Hirsch Munz and Sam Karpin collections. Currently at AJHS I am working on the Inter-Schools Committee, a collection donated by Suzanne Rutland. It has given me great insight on Australian Jewish education. What I enjoy most about AJHS is reading the interesting stories that emerge from the collections I work on, on top of the friendly environment. These stories told through different mediums ranging from letters to photos have given me a deeper appreciation of the Australian Jewish Community and Jewish history.

AFTER 80 YEARS, THE WAR GRAVE OF BOLD 15-YEAR-OLD *JACKY* HAS BEEN FOUND - BUT THE FIGHT CONTINUES TO CORRECT HIS HEADSTONE

Peter Allen, Coordinator of *Operation Jacob*

Jacob Sorsky, who came from a poor Jewish family in Liverpool UK, was *"big and well-built, very athletic and looked older than his age of thirteen"* when he left home in early 1940 and joined the Merchant Navy under an assumed name. He jumped ship when he landed in Melbourne and two years later, he became the Australian Army's second-youngest soldier to die in WWII, aged only 15½. He was buried under the alias he enlisted: "J. T. Drummond, age 21, Roman Catholic", his grieving family never saw a photo of his grave nor even knew where his final resting place was - beneath an anonymous headstone in a strange cemetery on the other side of the world - until recently.

Jacob Sorsky was born on 3 August 1926, in the Paddington area of Liverpool, UK. He was the eldest of seven children of Maurice and Dora, clothing workers, who had fled Poland/Russia like many other poor Jewish families. Known as *'Jack'* or *'Jacky,'* he was a member of the local *Jewish Lads Brigade*. Liverpool being a major trading port and with his uncle Harry being a merchant seaman, *Jack* likely spent much of his time around the docks and mingling with the seafarers, hearing stories about far-away places. Six months after the start of WWII and his bar mitzvah, *Jack* left home to join the Australian Merchant Vessel *Armadale* as a galley boy, using the alias 'J. Drummond'. He embarked on 24 April 1940, fatefully the day before the 25th anniversary of Anzac Day. Perhaps he was also looking for a way to fight the Nazis, who only months before had invaded his parents' homeland.

It is not known what routes the bold young lad survived with the risk of sinking while crossing enemy-infested oceans, but the *Armadale* eventually arrived in Melbourne, where *Jack* "jumped ship." He found lodgings in South Yarra, worked as a labourer and it seems that he briefly corresponded with his family - but the letters have been lost. In October 1941 and three years under the minimum age at just fifteen, the determined *Jack* enlisted in the Australian Army Signals Corps, attesting to be "James Terence Drummond, 21-years-old and Roman Catholic" – raising his age a full six years to avoid parental consent and further hiding his true identity.

Jacob 'Jacky' Sorsky, who served as VX64715 Signalman J. T. Drummond, Corps of Signals. Despite his youthful looks, he convinced the Australian Army recruitment officer that he was 21 – six years older than his actual age.

After three months training to be a motor-cycle despatch driver at Bonegilla Camp, near Wodonga on the Victoria-NSW border, *Jack* was delivering official messages around Melbourne on 23 March 1942 when he collided with a bus at the intersection of Whitehorse and Barnsbury Roads, Balwyn, and was critically injured. Tragically, *Jack* died in Heidelberg Military Hospital two days later. He was then buried in the Catholic section of Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne - with his true name, religion, and age of only 15½

years still a secret from the authorities. *Jack's* family learned of his death soon afterwards, reporting it to the *Liverpool Echo* and even receiving a box of his personal possessions.

However, it seems the Army was not made aware of *Jack's* real identity and, because the family often moved - compounded by the frequent bombings of Liverpool by the German *Luftwaffe* during the Blitz plus the fog of war - they subsequently never had contact with the (then) Imperial War Graves Commission. Therefore, his next of kin had no role in determining the text for their son's headstone nor gained knowledge of its location. Consequently, when the standard, pure white marble memorial was erected over the young lad's grave in December 1948, it was inscribed: "Signalman James Drummond, aged 21" but made no reference to *Jack's* birth name, correct age or family - and had no epitaph or religious emblem.

The existing headstone on Jacob Sorsky's grave in the
Roman Catholic section of Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Meanwhile in Liverpool UK, *Jack's* parents Maurice and Dora Sorsky "moved on", raising five other children. They passed away in 1958 and 1979 respectively. However, the Sorsky family never forgot their beloved *Jacky* – but sadly they had no perpetual memorial to focus on.

In 2016, AJEX UK historian Martin Sugarman was researching Jewish merchant seamen, when Peter Sorsky, who had joined the Merchant Navy during WWII, mentioned that his elder brother, *Jack,* had also joined before being killed while serving with the Australian Army in 1942. From that brief encounter, Martin unravelled *Jack's* story and found his gravesite, then began investigations to prove that Jacob Sorsky was indeed buried beneath the headstone mis-labelled "James Drummond".
https://www.ajhs.com.au/jacob-sorsky-short-biography/

Martin contacted the other three surviving Sorsky siblings, who were astonished to learn that the grave of their lost eldest brother, *Jacky*, had finally been located, 75 years after his death - but were *"most upset at the totally false details"* on his headstone. Martin collated documents as well as affidavits from them for submission to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), proving that 'James Drummond' really was Jacob Sorsky, also securing a letter from the Chief Rabbi of the UK and Commonwealth, Ephraim Mirvis, endorsing *Jacky's* Jewish faith.

First successful corrections
Eventually in 2020, the CWGC agreed to change the details of Drummond aka Sorsky on its website, also naming his parents of Liverpool, UK. However, the Commission would not agree to change *Jacky's* headstone and Sugarman contacted the writer in Australia. Inspired by the USA's *Operation Benjamin* (see: https://www.operationbenjamin.org/), *Operation Jacob* was created in 2021, chaired by Dr Keith Shilkin AM (President of FAJEX) with Dr Merrilyn Sernack as advocate. The writer corresponded with *Jacky's* siblings and, following a submission by *Operation Jacob* on behalf of them and FAJEX to the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG), ultimately on 30 August 2021, the OAWG agreed that the headstone

would be replaced, inscribed with both Jacob Sorsky's real and assumed names. Moreover, it could include an epitaph stating he was Jewish, with Hebrew text and date of death, *7 Nisan 5702*. However - disappointingly for *Jacky's* family - no religious symbol i.e. Star of David, could be permitted because the OAWG noted that *"he had attested as RC"* - even though it was not uncommon for Jewish service personnel to hide their identities, in order to avoid harassment or worse if captured by the Germans.

Operation Jacob persists

Undaunted, Peter and Merrilyn have continued researching and preparing a comprehensive submission directly to the CWGC. Indeed, another primary source document has been discovered: in 1949 the *Liverpool Jewish Gazette* reported that *"Brigade Lieut. Col. A. A. Isaac, unveiling a [Jewish Lads Brigade] memorial plaque, said he had known every one of those whose names were inscribed on it."* i.e., including 'Jack Sorsky' listed at the end of the article.

Concurrently, *Operation Jacob* is seeking the replacement of a Cross with a Star of David on the headstone of RAAF **Pilot Officer Raymond Shaw**, aged 20, who Died of Wounds on 29 May 1942 as a result of air operations with 450 Sqn in North Africa. Raymond was born in Sydney, bar mitzvah at The Great Synagogue, and was secretly engaged to a Jewish girl, even naming his *Kittyhawk* aircraft *'Marjorie'* after her. He is buried in Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma - about 25 kilometres west of Tobruk, Libya. See: https://www.ajhs.com.au/raymond-shaw-short-biography/

*The existing headstone of Pilot Officer Raymond Shaw
in Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya.*

A combined submission was made to the CWGC in early May 2022. It includes support letters from senior public figures and UNSW Professor Peter Stanley, who was Principal Historian from 1997 to 2007 at the Australian War Memorial. After 80 years, we are determined that both Signalman Jacob Sorsky and Pilot Officer Raymond Shaw will have a headstone inscribed with their true identity, so their families will finally have a faithful memorial as closure.

Operation Jacob continues to seek the correction of inaccurate records, including some five headstones, of fallen Jewish Australian servicemen. It is supported by FAJEX, AJHS, AJGS and ACTJC.

We Will Remember Them

AARON STEENBOHM'S YIDDISH ACCOUNTS LEDGER
Gary Luke

My great-grandfather, Aaron Steenbohm, was a bit of a ruffian. Whilst awaiting transportation, held on one of the hulks in the Thames, he knifed another prisoner in the neck. Aside from that one incident his prison record is complimentary of his good behaviour. His crime was theft. Multiple thefts. He had about 100 skeleton keys. His targets were usually other poor households in the south London area where he boarded. Born in Warsaw around 1825, the records in the Tasmanian archives state his language as Yiddish and that he had a speech impediment. Problems expressing himself may have been part of the cause of numerous lockups and punishment for misbehaviour and insubordination including twenty-five lashes as well as a few months in chains working in the Port Arthur quarry. His surname was Steinbourne at the Old Bailey trial and on his convict record, possibly due to slurred speech and a thick guttural accent as well as the Old Bailey clerk's hearing, tuned to neat British court language. When finally freed in 1858 the spelling changed to Steenbohm. Originally, the name may have been Sztaynboim or possibly some variation of Steinbaum.

By 1860 Aaron had married and had a son, born while travelling as a hawker in Braidwood. He settled in Pitt Town on the Hawkesbury River and was trading from a rented general goods store with customers spread as wide as Dural and Castle Hill. Invoices from unpaid suppliers showed the range of goods he stocked – drapery, groceries, ironmongery, medicines, cutlery, fancy goods and meat. This is documented with the original sales vouchers and invoices in his insolvency file held at the State Archives of NSW. The main creditor who forced the bankruptcy by calling in payment was Sigmond Hoffnung, a fellow congregant of York Street Synagogue,
who established a large wholesaling firm. My parents were unaware of this historical family connection when they purchased a boxed 12 setting silverware cutlery set two generations later from Hoffnungs.

Among the papers in the insolvency file are some pages written in scrawled cursive Hebrew with a blunt pencil, with pound, shilling and pence amounts. For some years I tried to find a translator who knew Yiddish and could read cursive Hebrew. Finally, late last year I scanned one page and posted it on Jewishgen's - *View Mate*. A couple of translations arrived within a week. The translation by Mark Symons converted the cursive Hebrew script to Hebrew block letters and then added an English translation.

An example with Mark Symons' re-rendering of Aaron's complex use of Hebrew script to sound like English.

Money I have paid mine creditors - **מאהנעה איי העב פעהד מיין קרעהדעהטעעהרת**

beginnin owed from dat dade - **בעהגינעעהן אויעד פראם דאט דעהד**

up to December 31/59 - 59 31 **אֶהפ טא דיסעהמבער**

The translation by Sharon Pozner made me realise this was a most unique type of document – an annual business ledger in English with a foreign accent, rendered in cursive Hebrew script. It wasn't Yiddish at all. It was better than plain English – it was English with the sound of his accent embedded in the transliteration. We can hear his style of speech 160 years later. Aaron is writing in English with Yiddish orthography. He must not have learned the English alphabet. He is recording the money he has given out or taken in between certain time dates. Likely this was required for his bankruptcy. The amounts on the left being pounds, shillings and pence, the currency at the time. The dates covered are 1859 and 1860.

The page from Aaron Steenbohm's ledger:-

66, 0, 0 — 59/31 [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

183, 8, 1½ — 59/31 [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

249, 8, 1½ [handwritten text]

250, 0, 0 [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

15 — 10 [handwritten text]

1860

(60/1) [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

255, 0, 0 — 60/31 [handwritten text]

220, 19, 10½ [handwritten text]

475, 19, 10½ [handwritten text]

476, 10, 0 — [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

20, — 12 [handwritten text]

31 [handwritten text] 60/15 [handwritten text] 15

20, 0, 0 [handwritten text]

12, 10, 6 — [handwritten Yiddish/Hebrew text]

Aaron Steenbohm's ledger - Translation by Sharon Pozner,- yiddishword708@gmail.com

Febery 21/59 up to December 31/59   66 . 0 . 0

Money I have paid to mine creditors from beginning
of dat date up to December 31/59   <u>183 . 8 . 1½</u>

<u>Total   249 . 8 . 1½</u>
Money I have taken durin dat time   250 . 0 . 0
Percentage in average
from 10 to 15 profit

_____

<div align="center">1860</div>

Expense I have made from January 1/60
up to October 31/60   255 . 0 . 0
Money I have paid creditors durin
dat time   <u>220 . 19 . 10½</u>
<u>Total   475 . 19 . 10½</u>
Money I have taken durin dat time   476 . 10 . 0
Percentage in average
From 12 to 20 profit

_____

Expenses from October 31 up to
December 15/60 including
<u>Sickness --- mine chile   20 . 0 . 0</u>
Money I have taken during dat time   12 . 10 . 6

<u>Postscript</u>

State Archives NSW has digitised Insolvency (1842-1887) and Bankruptcy (1888-1928) files. The online indexes allow for searching and copies of files can be ordered. To allow for variations in spelling, often arising when compiling the indexes, the wildcard (*) can be useful. For instance, Steenbohm was often misspelt. By searching for "Steenb*", "Steenbhom" and "Steenbhorn" are also found. From 1928 Bankruptcy and Insolvency has been administered by the Federal government.

Pre 1928 bankruptcies and insolvencies can be searched at:-
https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z

Post 1928 bankruptcies can be searched at:-
https://www.naa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/fs-120-bankruptcy-records-held-in-sydney.pdf

DANIEL BERGER AND THE WANDERING JEW.
Rob Willis OAM. **(Adapted from his series of three articles in the Forbes Advocate in 2016-17)**.

Daniel Berger first appears in the 1880s in Hay where he operated a business selling just about everything. Court reports of the day have him in a couple of legal altercations over various fiscal matters. He leaves the Riverina in 1890 and is next spotted as a businessman and owner of a paddle steamer 'The Wandering Jew" described as "a hawkers boat" which according to a newspaper advertisement "sold everything from a needle to an anchor" During a turbulent life, the vessel was burnt on three recorded occasions. The 'Jew' held the record from Brewarrina to Walgett and back, loaded both ways – 5½ days. An average load of wool on the 'Jew' was 27 tons with barges sometimes carrying an additional 80 tons. The final resting place of the steamer is just above the Aboriginal fish traps at Brewarrina, and it is listed on several heritage sites.

https://www.brewarrina.nsw.gov.au/tourism/attractions-activities/the-wandering-jew-wreck.aspx

Fires plagued Daniel Berger with not only his riverboats and barges being burnt but also other property at Bourke and Trundle. He operated a store with the same name, Wandering Jew, at Bourke and ran this in parallel with his Lachlan Arcade in Forbes, which opened in 1892. Berger was in trouble in both Bourke and Forbes for wanting to stay open for extended hours. Indeed, an association was formed to stop him from doing so. The hours in Bourke were from 9am to 9pm and Berger wished to open his new Lachlan Arcade until 6pm. An 'Early Closing Association' was formed in Forbes, in 1892, to prevent this happening. Unfortunately, no further information is available on this. Our 'Wandering Jew' certainly knew how to stir things up so I'm pretty sure he would have got his way.

Lachlan Arcade in the floods in the 1950's,

There was an established Jewish community in Forbes at this time and Berger quickly became part of it. He was a trustee, along with Levy Vandenberg (of the hotel) for a "burial ground for Jews" in the local cemetery. Berger's time in Forbes and his running of the Lachlan Arcade are surprisingly well documented through both articles and his amazing newspaper advertisements. He was a master of promotion as can be seen by this newspaper advertisement for a sale.

> ## Berger
> ### WILL ROB
> ## ALL FAT PROFIT MEN.
> ___
> ## BERGER'S
> ## Xmas. and Gifts Sale
> which has been promised for some time, has commenced, and will make a clean sweep of any Sale ever held since Captain Cook's discovery.
>
> ___
>
> THE public of Forbes and district will receive a supply of the Most Choice Goods suitable for causing Christian people to rejoice in remembrance of their beloved Mother and Son. The People of Moses will have a holiday later on, and BERGER promises
>
> ### Passover Cakes
> on that occasion to all his friends in remembrance of their beloved Moses. BERGER expresses his greatest regret that only one Xmas. is available in 12 months, because if there were six Xmases in one year, BERGER, in five years, would have a fortune; but as the civilised world only recognises one Moses and one BERGER, therefore the public must must be satisfied in receiving the Goods at the following prices for Xmas only.
>
> The public are reminded that on Berger's last visit to Sydney, the Choicest Goods that Money can buy were procured.

Another source of tales of the charismatic Mr Berger is a series of three articles entitled 'Flashbacks of Forbes' featured in the Forbes Advocate in 1951 and written by local historian George Gunn, who had worked at the Lachlan Arcade for Berger. Note that attitudes and language have changed over the years and that some comments are no longer appropriate by today's standards.

> *"In the late 1800s a Yiddisher named Daniel Berger arrived per his published itinerary of auction sales, as he sold by auction salvage stores of shipwrecks, fires, etc cheap and shoddy. It could be said of the late Berger he was a typical trader of his race, a most humorous auctioneer and big advertiser.*

On Saturday afternoons he would engage a brass band and give the town's children a picnic, running footraces and dumpling eating contests at South Circle Park. He had a wife passionately fond of children, hence her prompting band music and outdoor sport, with lollies in galore, as no pictures were in vogue.

This successful businessman built the Lachlan Arcade in Rankin Street and employed many hands. Unemployment was rife in the "good old days". The genial Dan's terms of employment were: "One minute's notice on either side."

One of the most amusing, yet for him, tragic periods of his years in Forbes occurred in the great flood of 1900. The Lachlan broke its banks at the Southern Cross and the waters filled Robinson's Swamp, to race round Boyle's Hill, the Lagoon, inundating the township and filling the large cellar of Jim Wallet's Hotel. Where the Olympic pool is now situated, was an unsightly gully at which refuse was tipped. This was a breeding ground for disease and as a result typhoid outbreaks were common. But the flood swept through this foul area with good if temporary effect. What was once the Lachlan Arcade stood over a commodious cellar, so with the adjoining cellar, one can imagine the subterranean sea which was created by the flood. The excitable Daniel Berger at this time knowing nothing of the geography of the country was driven to distraction. Some of the local wags told him that a wall of water was expected to arrive from Condobolin during the day. "Goldenia" (his wife), he roared. "Ve are no longer the Chosen People"
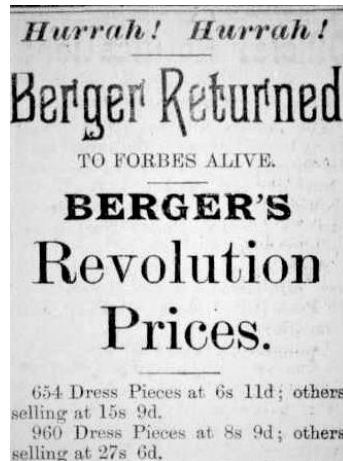
But it was a busy time. All hands were shifting tons of sugar and heavy merchandise from the flooded cellars. In fact, flour and sugar bags were used to form a levee. Above this scene of ruin, the Jew had painted a flaming red and white sign, "Berger In Trouble". A week of fine weather followed the deluge and during the fine spell the task of bailing out the cellar was tremendous. The store was in chaotic condition and the excitable Berger continually declaimed. "This is THE FLOOD and we have no Ark." However, he enlisted the aid of the local Fire Brigade to pump the water with the manual gear. A dozen or so men were engaged in operating the pump at 2/- an hour. It was not easy work and frequent stoppages were made. These infuriated Berger, and when the hour after hour went by and there did not seem to be any impression, the Jew became almost incoherent. When finally told that the men were striking for 5/- an hour, and the water kept seeping into his cellar from the adjacent hotel, Berger could stand it no longer. "Davis," he said dramatically to the brigade captain, "you can dismiss your men and all go to hell. You might as well try and empty the Pacific Ocean."

Berger was indeed a colourful personality, whose eyes were like beads in an inkwell. I gained my very intimate knowledge of the "Wandering Jew" as I was employed in my teens in the responsible position of cashier and assistant to the head book-keeper in the Lachlan Arcade. However, a lot of people make money by going broke, and the sequel to Berger's major trouble was a world tour for him and his wife."

Daniel Berger conducted business at the Lachlan Arcade and had various outreach sales in Parkes and Condobolin. He decided to go overseas in 1901 "for Mrs Berger's health" and left a manager in charge of the Arcade. His farewell in Forbes was chaired by the Mayor and attended by local businessmen, he even made the pages of the local and the Jewish newspaper, referencing his importance and prominence within the community.

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/132390517?searchTerm=Daniel%20Berger
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/252196678?searchTerm=Daniel%20Berger

Daniel Berger arrived back in Forbes in May 1902 with his usual fanfare. His advertisement in the local paper declared *"HURRAH, HURRAH – Berger returned to Forbes ALIVE"*.

However, his overseas jaunt must have cost him a few quid as he ended up in financial difficulties. In January 1903 there was a meeting of creditors with Daniel just managing to meet his commitments by selling off premises and stock in Sydney.

Daniel Berger had tried to dispose of his stock and the Lachlan Arcade in late 1902 but without luck.
"EXTRAORDINARY – Berger giving up business in Forbes – opening in Sydney and Newcastle"
screamed his adds. In addition, there had also been a fire in a property in Trundle which was investigated, and fortunately, he had been insured.

In September 1904 Berger ran an advertisement in The Sydney Morning Herald for the sale of
A GENERAL STORE in the prosperous town of Forbes. – The price was £3,000 for building and stock.
He must have been fortunate as in 1905 the Arcade was under the ownership of Mr Michael Lee.

Thank goodness, I thought, that finishes my story of the Wandering Jew – but NO. Just as in all good tales, our Jewish friend crops up in various newspaper advertisements over the next few years in places as far afield as Brisbane, Ipswich, Charters Towers, Byron Bay, Murwillumbah and Lismore. Unfortunately, he was plagued by yet another fire, at Murwillumbah in 1907, which destroyed a large part of the town. However, again he was insured and able to carry on.

Then came something very unusual, even for Daniel Berger. In January 1907 in The Northern Star, Lismore.
SENSATIONAL ANOUNCEMENT
Bargain Hunter's Harvest
£5000 worth of general goods to go
To be disposed of by private and auction, Mr and Mrs Berger are leaving
for Europe by P and O, Moldavia, March 27ᵗʰ .
By cable in the Sydney Morning Herald the death of the millionaire, Lou Spitzel of Carlsberg,
a friend of mine who owes me a debt of gratitude for assisting him in 1886. He left £2,000,000
sterling. £15,000 pounds of which has been left in my favour. As the money is now available I
am going to take a trip home and reclaim it.

Oh, come on Dan thinks I, this a bit far-fetched, even by your standards. But the strange part is that Louis Spitzel did exist, he was a millionaire, did leave a will favouring old acquaintances and there is a strong possibility that he knew Berger. It may not have been a fib after all. HOWEVER, Daniel and Mrs Berger did not catch the Moldavia, according to the passenger lists.

We who live in the Central West of NSW know its attractions and the fact that we return here. It must have been the same for the Bergers as in 1908 they are back in Parkes. As usual, Daniel does nothing by halves.

SLAUGHTER AT PARKES
Come early to avoid the Crush
In order to ascertain the best place I am going to hold
the GREATEST SACRIFICING SALE ever known,
in the West The whole of the Valuable Stock, amounting
to £5967, will be sold at the Greatest Smash known.

The advertisement concluded with: -

Remember, No Offer in reason Refused*
To the Inhabitants of Forbes and Parkes
D. B. begs to draw particular attention to the most extra
ordinary opportunity ever offered to the people in the West.

REMEMBER-BERGER *gives both Towns an equal show.*
*The Prices charged are the same, as **BERGER** intends*
*'having only one place'; therefore **BERGER** will either*
reside at Forbes'or Parkes.

The Well-known Price Reducer*, acknowledged by 'half of New South*
Wales population' as being the Only One Who kills all Fat Profits.

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/111919506?searchTerm=Slaughter%20at%20Parkes

It is easy to follow Daniel Berger's movements through the towns of central western New South Wales by his trail of masterful sale advertisements. The last I found was Condobolin in November 1909 where, once again he announces he is leaving the district.
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/213351506?searchTerm=Berger

Daniel and Mrs Berger finally left Australia on the German ship, *Bremen* in February 1910. They travelled first class so he must have had a considerable amount stashed away, *or had he received his inheritance from Louis Spitzel?* Daniel Berger died in Antwerp, Belgium on 8 November 1920. The Wandering Jew had finally stopped wandering. Goulda, his wife, survived until 1949, also dying in Antwerp.

Rob Willis' three pieces in the Forbes Advocate in late 2016 and early 2017.
https://www.forbesadvocate.com.au/story/4344999/the-wandering-jew/
https://www.forbesadvocate.com.au/story/4388139/the-wandering-jew-part-ii/
https://www.forbesadvocate.com.au/story/4415776/wandering-no-more/

George Gunn's articles – Flashbacks on Forbes
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/219127281?searchTerm=Daniel%20Berger

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/219129253?searchTerm=Daniel%20Berger

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/219128242?searchTerm=Daniel%20Berger

Musings: SJM Journal

Musings: SJM Journal is the Sydney Jewish Museum's peer-reviewed research publication. It is a cross-disciplinary, scholarly and educational publication that promotes research into all topics relevant to the Sydney Jewish Museum's exhibitions, collection and programming. These include the Holocaust, Human Rights, Jewish culture as well as Holocaust memorialisation, Civics and Citizenship education and Museum Studies. It publishes articles on these subjects both to increase knowledge of these topics, and to improve and share expertise in educating about these difficult pasts.

All articles submitted will undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening followed by anonymised refereeing by at least two external scholars.

The Editors of Musings SJM are:- Associate Professor Avril Alba, The University of Sydney and Dr Breann Fallon, The Sydney Jewish Museum.

Articles in the first edition: -
Dress and Dignity in Memories of Survival During the Shoah by Jonathan C. Kaplan.
Between Fantasy and Reality: A Culinary Story from Terezin, 1943 by Jana Vytrhlik.
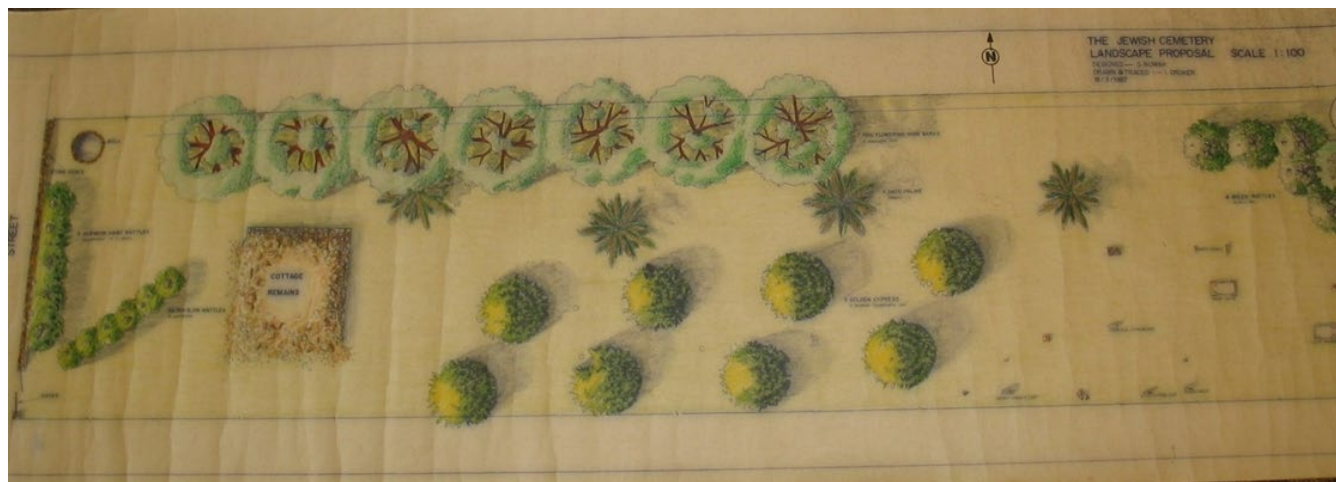*Return to Poland: The Jews in Lower Silesia 1945-1950* by Rita Nash.
The Silence: Belatedly Seeking to Reconstruct Holocaust Narratives by Suzanne D. Rutland.

To read Issue one of the Sydney Jewish Museum's new journal *Musings* click on the link: -

[Access *Musings* Issue 1 here.]

GOULBURN JEWISH CEMETERY – PROPOSED HERITAGE RESTORATION

Landscape plan prepared in March 1987. Courtesy of the Goulburn District Historical Society.

There are thirty known burials and about ten headstones or broken pieces at the Goulburn Jewish Cemetery. Prior to commencing the heritage restoration work a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey has been carried out. This survey has found the location of a number of the unmarked graves, discovered that the cottage was larger than the current ruins, found a few headstone fragments under the topsoil, and also that there was some sort of light structure near a rear corner of the cemetery.

A demonstration of the GPR equipment and an explanation of the findings
will be held at the cemetery from 11am to 1pm on Sunday 6 November 2022.

The cemetery is located opposite 109 Long St, Goulburn. Enter Long St via Common St and Cheswick St.

For further information, contact Gary Luke: - gary@feraltek.id.au

Cold Case is the company that carried out the GPR survey - https://www.coldcase.au/

AJHS PODCASTS – IN TIMES GONE BY

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https://www.ajhs.com.au/podcast/

ERRATA

Newsletter 124 incorrectly credited Walter Bridgland with the rank of Brigadier he was a Captain.

Philip Moses. Newsletter Editor.
Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome. They can be emailed to admin@ajhs.com.au.