

The York Street building, on the other hand, was in a business area and among buildings which were used for commercial purposes.

The Macquarie Street building was set back a little from the street. However, the willow trees appearing in the 1848 sketch, as remembered by the late Mr. Victor Cohen, were not there at the time of my visits, nor was there any garden plot in front of the building. So far as I can remember, there was not outside the building any sign showing the date of its erection.

Jews of Goulburn.

By SYDNEY B. GLASS.

CHAPTER THREE.

(Period 1840 to 1845.)

The new town of Goulburn, as approved by Governor Sir Richard Bourke, and gazetted in 1833, comprised what may be termed the core of the present city. It was a comparatively small area spaced between a half-dozen streets running north and south and a similar number running east and west. On the east, the proclaimed area was flanked by a reserve for public recreation which also allowed access to the water supply of the Mulwarrie. This reserve is now almost entirely taken up by the railway station, workshops and yards.* Save in regard to the reserve, little thought was given to the possibility of future expansion. The development of the town was later retarded on account of its being surrounded by large holdings.†

At the beginning of the 'forties, the area of the official township was on the way to being transformed from open fields, over which the sheep of the first settlers had grazed at will, into a partly built-up area. A little bark-roofed frontier town, it was "a tablelander's outpost."‡ For

*W. Baker's map of Goulburn, 1843.

†*History of Goulburn*, p. 72.

‡MacAlister, p. 97.

public buildings, it possessed a hospital§ (the former Convict Hospital, referred to on page 245 of Vol. I. of this *Journal*), a wooden gaol,|| and there were a few better class hotels and stores. The streets of the town were mere spaces between the buildings on either side—entirely unmade, and sometimes impassable for ordinary vehicles. What is now the southern end of Auburn Street, the principal thoroughfare, was isolated from the main portion by the intersection of a deep gully.

Of reliable bridges and culverts there were few, and road traffic was sometimes halted for days by the seasonal floodings in either or both of the river systems of the Wollondilly and the Mulwarrie, which joined in the flat country outside the town. Loss of human lives sometimes resulted from these floods, as well as much destruction of property and stock.

The bad and worsening state of the highways into the southern counties was the subject of frequent pleas by the settlers and townfolk to the authorities. In some places the highway had deteriorated to a point where it was impassable for a horseman, not to speak of a heavily-laden dray.|| To a petition of three hundred settlers, Governor Sir George Gipps made reply that a new road into Argyle would only be considered when an adequate supply of labour was available.* The only possible source was prison labour.

The isolation of the district from the principal markets on account of the perils of the roads was not

§In 1843 it was functioning under a local committee, which raised funds for its maintenance by an interesting contribution scheme. Fines imposed locally for drunkenness and minor misdemeanours were paid over to the Committee, the Goulburn magistrates paying in £28/15/10 from this source for the four months ended 31st December, 1842.—(*Sydney Gazette*, 24th April, 1843.)

||A prisoner in the gaol struck off his irons and escaped at broad noonday, and was pursued unsuccessfully over the river by the jailer.—(*Sydney Gazette*, 29th March, 1843.) From the new brick gaol completed in 1845, two prisoners escaped by the simple process of boring through the brickwork.—(*Sydney Morning Herald*, August 23, 1845.)

**Sydney Gazette*, 31st March, 1842.

**Ibid.*

entirely one-sided in effect. The town—its population in 1843 was 700†—was so placed that many outlying settlements came to regard it as a population centre for the sale as well as the purchase of commodities. There were large government convict stations in the district,‡ and these needed regular supplies. Goulburn benefited to a degree from the operation of these factors. The Australian Store, according to a writer in 1895,§ was enlarged into a warehouse when, in 1844, a partner in the firm|| resident in Sydney secured the contract for the provisioning of the convict establishments in the area. Local industries received a measure of encouragement from the same causes.

At least one industry owed its establishment in the district almost entirely to Jewish capital and enterprise. The early 'forties were times of drought, and through a combination of causes the stockowners throughout the country were faced with heavy losses, and in some cases even ruin. For lack of fodder, the huge flocks which had been built up in good years passed from an asset into a liability. A process was discovered, however, by which a small yet worthwhile return to the owner could be secured from the tallow obtainable on the boiling down of the carcasses of sheep and cattle, and this tallow found a ready demand on the Sydney and London markets. Boiling-down works were established throughout the State, and Messrs. Benjamin and Moses, proprietors of the Argyle Stores of Goulburn and Queanbeyan, set up at Towrang, near Goulburn, a factory with a powerful steam boiler . . . and all the necessary apparatus . . . and buildings for carrying on the business on a most extensive scale.|| The works, which were capable of treating 1000 sheep or 60 head of cattle per day,* operated successfully over several

†*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7th April, 1843.

‡According to MacAlister, p. 59, there were 250 prisoners in one of these stations.

§*Goulburn Herald*, 9th October, 1895.

||Isaac Levey. See p. 316 of this number.

||*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12th June, 1844.

*Says MacAlister, at p. 104: "The works gave employment to 50 to 100 men." A Mr. Myers (Abraham Meyer, in fact) was the manager of the works, out of which, says MacAlister, the owners made a big fortune.

years. We shall have occasion to refer again to the Towrang establishment in the course of this record.

The opening by Solomon Moses of the new Royal Hotel in 1841† represented a considerable advance in the amenities of the district. Within a month of the opening there was held within its walls an important public meeting of the inhabitants of County Argyle, William Bradley, Esq., occupying the chair. The temper as well



ELIAS MOSES.

as the vigour of the meeting is reflected in the wording of the resolutions :—

That while the colonists of New South Wales yield to no people in the British Dominions in loyalty to the Crown and attachment to the Constitution, they are determined to uphold their rights as subjects of the Queen of England, and to seek redress lawfully, but firmly, should their rights be withheld or invaded.

A further resolution expressed profound disappointment at the Governor's speech at the opening of the

†See p. 247 of Vol. I. of this *Journal*.

Legislative Council, postponing the setting up of an elected assembly. Another severely criticised the ability of the nominee Council, and the last was in form.

A petition to the House of Commons :—

That your Honourable House will, in your wisdom, recommend to Her Majesty's advisers that a Bill should be introduced, having for its objects the granting of an Elective Assembly to the Colony of New South Wales.†

Copies of this petition were later distributed for signature throughout the colony.

It was the first of many such gatherings at the Royal Hotel. The hotels of the town were in many respects the public buildings of the populace, who found at the Royal, the Salutation Inn, Mandelson's Goulburn Hotel, the Chequers and several others, the favoured atmosphere for social and other meetings. In less convivial surroundings, Mr. R. Marsden Cartwright, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Surgeon to the Goulburn Hospital, might be consulted on two mornings in the week in his rooms at the Argyle Store.§

Perhaps, as a consequence of the agitation commenced at the July, 1841, meeting at the Royal Hotel, the Governor, Sir George Gipps, announced publicly his intention of touring the southern counties, and Lieutenant Gorman, the Chief Constable of Goulburn, was hard put to make all bridges and culverts secure for the passage of the Vice-Regal carriages. In October, 1842,¶ after his public entry on the previous day, the Governor's equipage halted at the Royal Hotel, and on calling for "mine host," his Excellency expressed his astonishment at seeing such a splendid house for public accommodation in the interior of the colony. After an address of welcome and reply, his Excellency held a levee at the hotel for the principal citizens, while Lady Gipps held a drawing-room function, at which the ladies of Goulburn had the honour of being presented to her Excellency.

†*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7th August, 1841.

‡*Sydney Gazette*, 31st May, 1842.

¶*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29th October, 1842.

On the same day, Mr. Mandelson, of the Goulburn Inn, had a joint of beef publicly roasted in honour of his Excellency's visit for the benefit of all who would partake—an invitation freely availed of by King Yarraginy and his sable subjects. The correspondent has recorded that the King of the Mulwarrie tribe was not less happy in the celebration than the Governor of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

That the Jewish population of the town and district was slowly increasing during the period is attested by a number of records and happenings. In the New South Wales census of 1841, the Jewish residents of Goulburn are shown as 22; in 1846 the census gives 54 in Goulburn, or a total of 59 in County Argyle. For the building of the York Street, Sydney, Synagogue, dedicated for worship in April, 1844, there were forthcoming from Goulburn a donation of £100 from Solomon Moses and substantial amounts from Elias Moses, Abraham Meyer, Nathan Mandelson and Isaac Hart. Per Abraham Meyer, there were also donations received from W. Bradley, T. A. Murray, Lieutenant Gorman, Thomas Brodie (of the Salvation Inn), W. H. Hovell (the explorer), Francis Cooper, James Sinclair, William Simons (of The Chequers Inn), M. Trenary and E. D. Kelson.¶ In *The Voice of Jacob*, printed in London,* it is reported from Sydney that Holyday Services were held in Goulburn in 1844 at the residence of Elias Moses at the Argyle Store, with an attendance of seventeen persons. In the same issue is first mentioned that Messrs. Benjamin and Moses had agreed to dedicate an acre of ground for a Jewish cemetery.

Early in November, 1844, Sarah, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moses, spent a week's vacation with her uncle, aunt and cousins (the M. Moses family), of Yass, and her father with his other daughter, Hannah, had driven over in a light single-horsed gig, intending to spend a few hours with their relatives, and to return, bringing Sarah with them. The crossing place within a few yards of the brother's residence was running high, but was

¶Synagogue Report, 1845.

*June 6th, 1845.

negotiated with ease on the forward journey at 10 a.m. At 4 p.m., however, on the return, a considerable rise in the water deceived the driver as to the proper place to cross, and, one wheel of the gig catching a ledging of rock, the other submerged and the horse and gig were swirled round in the torrent and swept into a large water-hole alongside the crossing, where, in the confusion, the gig collapsed and the two girls were carried away before the eyes of their kinsfolk and drowned, the father barely escaping with his life.

The bodies of the girls were recovered several hours later and brought to Goulburn for burial in the Jewish Cemetery. These were the first interments in the new burial ground, where the sisters rest in unmarked graves.†

Within a few weeks occurred a second burial, again in association with tragedy.

Early in February, 1845,‡ the combined store and inn of Isaac Davis, of Burrowa, was "stuck up" late at night by a number of armed and masked men, who crowded the proprietor and his wife and small children together with the employees into a tap-room, while the robbers selected and made off with four horse-loads of goods and stores. One of the robbers, who stood guard at the entrance to the tap-room where the inmates were confined for some time, discharged a pistol into the room, and Mr. Davis was struck by a ball which inflicted a wound from which he succumbed two days later.

Contemporary accounts describe the case as one of deliberate murder of Mr. Davis, who, it transpired later, had been bound over to prosecute certain persons charged with robberies from vehicles on the highway. Though a Government reward was offered for the arrest of the persons responsible, such was the lawless state of the country and the fear of reprisals that no evidence was forthcoming. The outrage was on the way to joining the unsolved crimes when, over four years later, there was an arrest.

†*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28th November, 1844.

‡*Sydney Morning Herald*, 14th February, 1845, and contemporaries.

The accused was tried at the Goulburn Circuit Court before Chief Justice Stephen and a jury in September, 1849§, the Solicitor-General and Mr. Holroyd, a well-known counsel, prosecuting, and Mr. Purefoy, the leading criminal lawyer, defending. Only two of the witnesses were then available, and while the principal witness swore positively to identity, the other deposed only to a great resemblance in appearance and in voice between the accused and the armed guard. In the absence of the doctor, then in England, there was no explicit evidence that a bullet had in fact entered the body of Mr. Davis. The defence elicited in cross-examination that the guard, after the firing of the pistol, had called out that the weapon was discharged by accident, also that the night was stormy and with occasional claps of thunder.

No evidence was forthcoming for the defence. After long addresses by counsel on either side and by the Chief Justice, the jury, after deliberating three hours on the matter, acquitted.

(For the photograph of Elias Moses, I am indebted to his daughter, Mrs. Amelia Alexander, a member of this Society.)

§*Goulburn Herald*, 6th September, 1849.

(To be continued.)

The Importance of Exactitude in Research.

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of the Archives Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

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Committee, December 3, 1941.)*

Exactitude has its importance in every walk of life, and no less than in historical research. The heritage of men and of nations are valued and balanced in the scales of history. How can this be done otherwise than being assured that the facts and deeds are true, and that the backgrounds fit in with the living or discovered facts? Whether it be the contemporary historian or the historian-