

## MORDECAI SOLOMON ARRIVAL- BICENTENNIAL TOUR OF THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE GIVEN BY GRAHAM BARNETT 26TH APRIL 2018

All the facts and figures, information, history of early Jewish Settlement in Australia and historical and architectural highlights of the Great Synagogue are all summarised in a Guide to the Great Synagogue in the information sheet given out at the tour.

Special highlights and comments I made concerning Mordecai and his family are as follows:

From the very beginning this was going to be an emotional journey.

It all culminated with me on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March last at the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of the Great Synagogue in the hour long service following the regular Shabbat Service. The Synagogue was already electrically charged with the Governor of NSW speaking from the pulpit on Jewish contribution to Australian life and the Premier of NSW speaking sincerely and warmly. Then I had a tap on the shoulder and this voice said I am related to you. It was Denise Sher.

There we were sitting together as Great Synagogue volunteers and great great grandchildren of Mordecai at the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of the Great Synagogue in 1878 at which Mordecai may have attended to support Adrian's and Denise's great grandfather George Myers. As the Synagogue's 1<sup>st</sup> president he would have been seated in the leather deep buttoned seat beneath the Bimah alongside the Ark dressed in his top hat and frock coat or morning suit.

Wendy and I recently had the opportunity to visit the Synagogue in Hobart the oldest Synagogue in Australia consecrated in 1845 still holding services. We saw a plaque on the wall in honour of Samuel Barnett. Mordecai's youngest daughter Catherine married my great grandfather Isaac Barnett. Isaac's father was Asher Barnett. Samuel Barnett is Asher's younger brother.

The Hobart Synagogue 59 Argyle St is built on land belonging to the colonial house called Temple House built and owned by the brothers Judah and Joseph Solomon who gave the land to the Synagogue. Judah Solomon's eldest daughter Rachael married Samuel Barnett in London in 1831.

I drew attention to the Role of Honour Boards listing the names of those who served in World Wars 1 & 11. We recognised family members listed there.

