

THE SOLOMON FAMILY

Amongst the crowd in the bustling court of the Surrey Assizes in London was a young lad *Mordecai Solomon*. He felt certain he had outwitted the legal system by using the different name of *Abraham Solomon* so it would appear this was his first offence.

He pulled himself up to his full height of 5 foot 3 inches awaiting the judgement. The Judge found him guilty of his misdemeanour and passed the sentence with barely a glance at the dark figure in the dock.

Mordecai now using the name *Abraham Solomon* was shocked and outraged as he heard the sentence passed that he was to be transported across the seas for seven years.

How was it that this moment in time caused generations of the Solomon family to expand through the generations to be intertwined with the history and development of Australia?

This history begins with a link to the convict beginnings of the British penal colony, in Sydney and Port Macquarie. Then moves through the early settlement of the Illawarra. The discovery of gold in various locations led to lives as storekeepers on the goldfields with exchanges with bushrangers. The following generations of the family expanded into dealing and trade and were involved with the development of the department stores.

Education opportunities later led to family members with occupations in all walks of life.

The first arrival of a SOLOMON of this family, in Australia seems to be rather confusing.

MORDECAI SOLOMON, taken from information on his death certificate appears to have arrived in 1818 in Sydney. His death certificate in 1883 records he was in the colony for 65 years.ⁱ

Records were found of a Mordecai Solomon being before the court in Sydney on 30th March 1848 for a Breach of the Peace, the charge of which is dismissed. M Solomon of Pitt St on 7th September is charged for assault on Mrs Mackedaroy (sic McDowell) and ordered to pay a £50 fine and two sureties of £25.ⁱⁱ

Mordecai A. Solomon in 1851 is residing in Pitt St in Sydney but nothing earlier could be found of evidence of that name before that date. An Historical Electoral roll of 1849 has an Abraham Solomon listed in the same order of names residing in Pitt St. ⁱⁱⁱ

The birth records of his daughter Sarah in 1836 and Jane in 1838 both indicate they were born in the Illawarra. A newspaper notice of his daughter Sarah's, marriage to George Myers in 1855 states her father Mordecai is previously of Dapto in the Illawarra.

Extensive research into all the Solomon families found in early records could find no record of a Mordecai Solomon. There were no records of an Abraham Solomon, who was found in the Illawarra and in Directories in Sydney in 1849 past this date.

Checking the 1841 census in the Illawarra of Abraham Solomon matched the family make up of Mordecai's family at this time. This Abraham arrived as a convict.

Assuming Abraham Solomon and Mordecai Solomon, are the same person, and therefore arrived here as a convict, confirmation of a criminal conviction was searched for.

CONVICT BEGINNINGS ENGLAND

At only 17 years of age *Mordecai Solomon* found himself for the first time in the dock of the Old Bailey, London's Central Court, He was apprehended on 23rd December 1816, when he was in Brown's Lane, Spitalfields, on suspicion of stealing the till with coins in it from a grocer, Evan Jones.^{iv}

Richard WARD the witness stated *I live next door to Mr Jones, my father keeps a coal shed. I saw the prisoner in blue pantaloons and blue coat run down Corbett's Court with something under his arm.* He denied saying that he had named the prisoner Smouchey.

EVAN JONES the grocer stated. *WARD told me that the prisoner was a playfellow of his and that he was afraid of the rest of the gang.*

Question to WARD. *Are you afraid of the rest of the gang that you do not give evidence.*

WARD *I am.*

In court for this offence on the 15th January 1817 with the witness not prepared to identify that *Mordecai* was the culprit, he was found Not Guilty.

It is not much later, on 16th April 1817, that Mordecai Solomon(s) is found again in this court. This time he is found Guilty of having in his possession 10 live rabbits and 9 dead rabbits that belonged to Richard Hawkes, worth 5 shillings. His trial, along with his accomplice James Argent, in the Old Bailey is described in detail.^v

752. ~~X~~ JAMES ARGENT and MORDECAI SOLOMON were indicted for stealing, on the 11th of April, ten live tame rabbits, price 10s., the property of Richard Hawkes.

RICHARD HAWKES. I am a labourer, and live at Stratford. On the 11th of April, between five and six o'clock in the morning, I missed my rabbits out of my out-house; they were safe the evening before—the hutches were open.

THOMAS PIERCEY. I am an officer. On the 11th of April, I was on duty on Stepney Common, and met the prisoners about seven o'clock in the morning—each had a bag. I asked Argent what he had got—he said, “rabbits,” and that he was going to take them to Whitechapel. He said he got them from Stratford. Solomon said, Argent had hired him to carry them. I secured them.

THOMAS WALKER. I am an officer, and was with the last witness; I took the prisoners to the office, with the bags—there were nine live, and one dead, rabbits, in one bag, and nine dead ones in the other. They said a man with a cart-load of potatoes had hired them to carry the rabbits to Whitechapel.

(Property produced and sworn to.)

ARGENT—GUILTY. Aged 17.

SOLOMON—GUILTY. Aged 17.

Confined Six Months.

Second Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Recorder.

No 226 James Argent. 16. 2 } born d by W. Kinnard Esq for stealing
 No Mordecai Solomons. 17 } 19 Rabbits value 5/- the property of
 Richard Hawkes. Dated 15 April 1817.

He received the sentence of 6 months imprisonment and sent to Newgate Prison.^{vi}

London was becoming the centre of an enterprising, global trading hub. The mass of people flocking into London to service commerce and providing the population with goods and services caused severe overcrowding. Existing housing became inadequate. There was no economic or social relief for the increasing poverty of a large portion of the population.

Many people reverted to criminal activities to support themselves or their families.

Jewish migrants from Europe lived close together, in self-supporting communities, tied by a common language, their religion and cultural traditions. This was generally around the East End of London.

Young boys around London were often found in ‘gangs’. It appears that Mordecai, even at the age of 16 could well have been a part of these, evidenced by him appearing as a repeat offender, and the evidence of Richard Ward. It was not unusual for them to be found roaming the streets ready to pick the pockets of individuals or entering dwellings to steal the contents.

The rabbit stealing from breeders to other breeders was a lucrative crime as they supplied the fur trade.

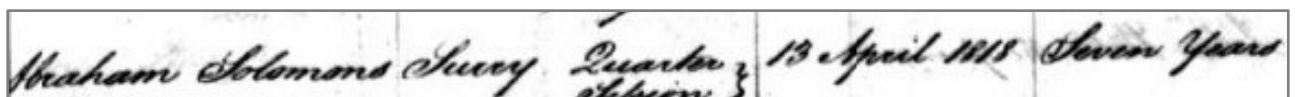
The presumption of *innocent until proved guilty* was not the norm at this time. If apprehended, you were presumed guilty and actually had to prove you were innocent. As the witness was generally believed, rather than the accused, - unless you were rich and could afford legal representation or had well connected family relatives-there were a lot of people found to be guilty of often a petty crime.

Six months in the unhealthy and crowded Newgate Prison apparently didn’t deter him from criminal activities as he crossed the Thames River to Lambeth and was arrested for stealing once again.

Abraham Solomon aged 18 years, was committed on 11th April 1818 charged on the oaths of Francis Taplin (a linen mangler) and others, with feloniously stealing, at Lambeth, several towels and other articles, her property. Three witnesses verified his identity. This was the third time ‘Mordecai- Abraham’ had appeared in court.

These were not necessarily the only crimes he committed but the only ones of which he was apprehended. It was well known amongst the criminal fraternity that repeat offenders were transported to the colonies. Otherwise in many instances, hanging was the end result, as this was thought to act as a deterrent to others. This is the probability of why he used the name Abraham.

He was found Guilty at the Surrey Assizes Quarter Sessions on 13th April 1818 and sentenced to 7 years transportation Australia.



Abraham Solomon(s),. Surrey Quarter Sessions 13 April 1818 Seven Years

After surviving another month in the London Goal, he was transferred on 20th May 1818, to accommodation, on the Prison Hulk *Justitia*. This was an old, decommissioned ship of 260 tons. It was moored in the muddy swamp area of the River Thames, at Woolwich.^{vii}

While here the convicts were employed to work on shore at Woolwich building embankments and docks.

Received 20 th May 1818,			
90 James Rose	21 Felony	Kingston upon Ths,	1799. } D. } 1799. }
1 William Sadd	22 H. Theft	Asst 30. Mar. 1818,	D. } 1799. }
2 John Newlands	48 H. Theft	Pool Gt. Les: 13 th	1799. }
3 Richard Pugh	26 G. Larceny	March 1818,	1799. }
4 James Weaver	33 Larceny	Montgome. 2 nd April 1818	D. } 1799. }
5 James Priest,	40 Desertion	Worm Fortune S. Lucia	1799. }
Received 21 st May 1818,			
6 Abraham Solomons	18 H. Theft	Swirey 2 nd S. Marys Hill	1799. }

After a month he is transferred to the convict transport vessel the *Shipley*.

Finally on 17th July 1818 they leave the Thames River for the arduous sea journey to New South Wales.

Abraham apparently wasn't impressed with this idea as before they even left England he had received 35 lashes for riotous and disorderly conduct.^{viii}

SHIP'S SURGEON JOURNAL FOR VOYAGE ON SHIPLEY

CONVICT TRANSPORTATION

ROBERT ESPIE kept a Medical Journal from

23 June 1818 to 21 December 1818.

This was for the second voyage to New South Wales of the Shipley.

At 3pm on Tuesday 23rd June 1818 eighty male convicts, all but two double ironed, were embarked on the *Shipley*. They were in good health and according to the surgeon were robust young men mostly under the age of 35 years. Before receiving them Robert Espie had inspected the ship prison which he found clean and comfortable. The following day at 2pm seventy more were embarked, all in perfect health. That evening about a third of the prisoners were allowed on deck. They were reported to be well behaved men. After only a few days the surgeon began to remove the double leg irons of some of the better behaved men. The weather was fine and warm while they moored at Woolwich to await sailing orders.

DEPARTURE

The surgeon remarked that the convicts conducted themselves in a very orderly manner and were allowed every indulgence possible. Their last day in England, 17th July, was gloomy with rain in the morning. The following day, 18th July 1818, they awoke to a fine, clear day. As they proceeded down the Thames the first mention of unruly behaviour occurred.

Abraham Solomons was punished with 35 lashes for riotous and disorderly conduct and Thomas Brown for throwing his mat about was handcuffed. ^{ix}

Surviving the situation of the convicts confined in the claustrophobic conditions on the ship, as well the unpredictable and often treacherous conditions of the sea, after 123 days of monotony, *Abraham Solomon* arrived safely in Australia entering Sydney Harbour, on 18th November 1818. Three of the convicts died on the voyage.

PORT JACKSON, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Having arrived in Port Jackson and finally moored in the harbour they then had to remain on board waiting the appointed date to disembark.

Lachlan Macquarie was the Governor at the time of the arrival of the *Shipley*. He appointed the day of 24th November 1818 for the convicts to finally come ashore.

A muster of the convicts was taken and so commenced the official recording of Abraham's life in Australia whilst serving his seven-year sentence.

The convicts were issued with their 'official' convict clothing of a cotton shirt, white 'duck' cotton trousers, a yellow and grey waistcoat, stockings, shoes a 'neckcheif, a blue course woollen jacket, and a woollen cap. Abraham joins so many others dressed in the broad arrow marked convict clothing.

As they are marched into the yard of the gaol at Sydney, the men of the *Shipley* could glimpse so many others dressed in the same clothing working around the town in gangs on roads and buildings or attending to their trades. Abraham had the chance to catch sight of the Sydney town that the visionary Governor Macquarie was endeavouring to construct into a more substantial settlement from purely a ramshackle penal colony.

In the goal yard the men were arranged in two lines for the inspection by Governor Macquarie. Prior to 1814 the convicts often arrived in a poor state of health, or died on the voyage, due to mismanagement of the contractors paid to transport them. Governor Macquarie exasperated with men arriving in a poor state unable to work and also a

burden on the limited resources, caused the appointment of a qualified ships surgeon on each transport. Consequently, it was his custom to inspect the prisoners after they were disembarked to make a report of their health and physical state on arrival. The captain of the convict transport, Lewis William Moncrief, the surgeon superintendent, Robert Espie, the chief engineer, and the superintendent of convicts, accompanied the governor in his inspection.^x

Abraham's water journey was not quite over as the men were to be conveyed up the river to the established settlement at Parramatta.

As the men rowed, to augment the sail on the boat, Abraham had several days to absorb the unfamiliar sights of the native vegetation of his new abode along the riverbank, on his way to Parramatta. A vastly different river view than that of the River Thames that was always a hive of activity on the expanding docks, and the many houses hugging its banks. London's population at the turn of the century was just a million people but it was growing rapidly as the city became a centre of world trade.

Arriving in Parramatta, the organisation of the convicts was well organised. Here it was under the authority of wealthy land owners and district magistrates. Hannibal MacArthur was responsible for the distribution of the assigned convicts to landowners or town gangs.

Abraham is found being sent to the Liverpool Barracks with sixteen other prisoners.^{xi}

<u>Liverpool</u>		
93 John Stewart 94 Andrew Gardner 95 John Weaver 96 c. H. Solomons 97 Wm Shepherd	Liver at Liverpool -	105 Mathew Smith 106 Tho. Ward 107 Jos. Babbs 108 Tho. Lemmington al. Hobs 109 George Spencer.

In the 1822 Liverpool Population Book he is shown assigned to *John Grant*, an emancipist, to work on his farm.

John Grant transported in 1811 for Life, had petitioned for his freedom in 1820 and was granted a Conditional Pardon. Having previously been a ploughman and farm labourer in Ireland he readily adapted to this farm work. He proved to be competent at it, as he went on to own property near Bathurst.^{xii}

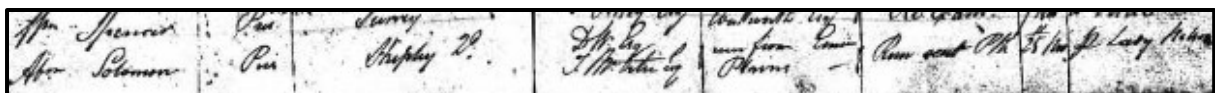
Reverend Thomas Redall contracted John Grant to fell and burn the timber and build fences on his Glebe land at Campbell Town. For this, Grant was paid £75. Abraham would have done the work with the other three convicts.^{xiii}. At the time Abraham is assigned to John Grant there is also a record of the harvesting of his wheat and maize to go to the Liverpool government store.

Born to the bustling city life of London, Abraham had entered a life totally alien from his previous lifestyle. The Liverpool district was made up of large agricultural estates that had earlier been granted to military men or a few with personal substantial means, as well as some of the fortunate emancipists that Governor Macquarie was encouraging to settle with their families, supporting a productive lifestyle in order to contribute to the colony.

Six months earlier Abraham had lost his right to personal freedom and his life here was now controlled by others. When assigned to town gangs he was guarded by military men or other convicts as ‘constables.’ On the farms, his life was regimented with waking times and mealtimes. This was the start of being introduced to the physical labour that would become so much part of his early life in the colony. Work in the fields of the landholders could be strenuous.

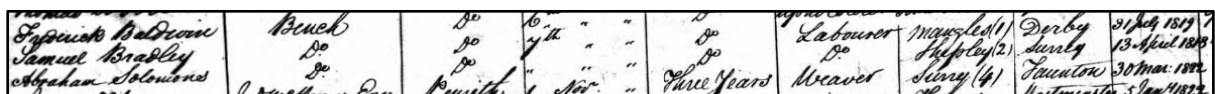
He may not have taken to it without complaint as in 1823 he is found at Emu Plains. This was initially a large brick convict stockade built in 1816. It had expanded to an Agricultural Penal Farm where the convicts were used to clear trees, build roads and grow crops.

Abraham once more may not have taken to these tasks without complaint as his record, from the ‘town gang’, states RUN.^{xiv}



Abraham Solomon Shipley(2) Magistrates Run from Emu Plains
Serve out remainder of sentence at Port Macquarie Transport on ship Lady Nelson

Having escaped but then being caught he is convicted as a runaway, on 7th November 1823 by the Bench in Sydney for transportation for the remainder of his 7 year term at the Penal Colony of Port Macquarie.^{xv}



Abraham Solomon Convicted by Bench Sydney Central Criminal Court 7th November
1823 Labourer Shipley (2) Convicted in Surrey 13th April 1818.

Avoiding a long sea voyage this time, he only had to travel for about three days, up the coast of New South Wales to the newly opened Port Macquarie Penal settlement. He left Sydney on the 25th November 1823 in the brig *Lady Nelson* with fifty other convicts, who had all committed a secondary crime in the colony.^{xvi}

Port Macquarie had been opened as a penal settlement in 1821 for convicts who had committed offences in the colony. When Abraham arrived there, he joined 1,100 other convicts. The area around the settlement was heavily timbered with pockets of lush temperate rainforest. The town area was cleared with building works well under way. Construction was complete of the Commandants cottage, some town houses the Military Barracks, and a hospital. The foundations for the building of St Thomas's church was now in progress. During his time the new Government House was completed.^{xvii}

With his previous experience he may have been employed at the agricultural establishments, or contributed to the many building works. The convicts were employed around the town or sent out on working parties to the sawyers' camps or to the sugar cane plantation.

The area was a rich source of timber, especially cedar.

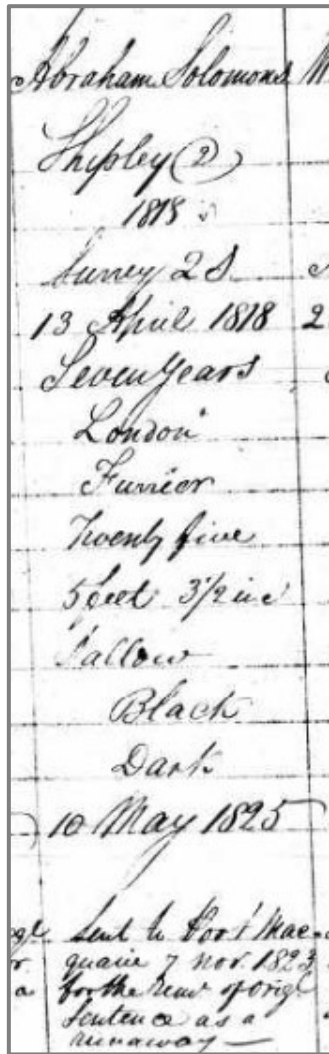
Port Macquarie records states- there were 880 eight foot cedar logs lying on the beach at the lumbar yard waiting to be sawn. At the cedar camp up the river there were 276 eight foot logs and 20 fifteen foot logs

Timber felling was taking place in camps away from the main settlement as timber was in great need for the many buildings required and the ships. The cedar and rosewood was in great demand in Sydney and taken by the ships returning there after depositing their convict passengers. Governor Macquarie sent a sample of the timber to England to show the superior quality of the timber.^{xviii}

He remained in Port Macquarie until the completion of his 7 year sentence in May 1825.

Abraham returns by ship to Sydney for a brief stay at Hyde Park Barracks where his dispersal into the free world is organised.

He was given his paper that certified he had a *Certificate of Freedom* dated 10th May 1825.



The Butt of his Certificate of Freedom;

dated 10th May 1825:

Convicted at; Surrey Quarter Sessions 13th April 1818.

Term; 7 years.

Native place; London.

Calling; *Furrier*.

Physical Description; Age; 25 years. Height; 5 feet 3 ¼ inches.

Complexion; Sallow. Hair; Black. Eyes; Dark.

Arrived on transport *Shipley*. 24th November 1818^{xix}

While feeling elated at finally not having a guard watching over him, suddenly he is in the position of having to provide his own food and clothing. On the voyage down the coast his associates are his fellow convicts and they were soon to be free to make their own decisions. Employment is their main concern, and finding a source of income is a necessity.

Abraham at the completion of his sentence is now 25 years old with a completely different set of skills than those he arrived in the colony with.

The possibilities of his whereabouts are restricted to the limited confines of the areas of habitation of the colony at this time. As there is future documentary evidence of the Abraham Solomon in the Illawarra by the mid 1830's it is not improbable that he made his way there with the many ex-convicts seeking the abundant work opportunities the Illawarra district provided for men with his labouring proficiency.

With the possibility that he had been in the sawyer's camp in Port Macquarie he may have joined many of his convict friends travelling to the Illawarra where there was known to be plenty of work felling the abundant timber in the district, especially the lucrative cedar that had started to be transported to Sydney from 1817. Throughout the next two decades there are reports of the small coastal ships carrying large quantities of cedar logs to Sydney. The wealth to be gained from the rich timber sources was incentive for men to carve their way through the lush, practically impenetrable, dense rain forest growth.

Cedar was in great demand for building and furniture. By the 1820's there were many sawyers' camps throughout the area. These were reported to be *numerous and disorderly in their conduct*. Many working in the inaccessible areas were escaped convicts, or those with a Ticket of Leave.

Captain Bishop an Officer of the 40th Regiment was sent to the area in 1826 with the orders to

- 1) *Protect the settlers from the depredations of the "bushrangers and vagabonds" who infested the district.*
- 2) *To forward to Sydney under military escort all prisoners of the Crown found at large,*
- 3) *To see that no cedar was taken from Government Reserves except by persons duly authorized.*

It became illegal to bring timber to Port Jackson without a licence. The men became employed by 'contractors' to fell and cut the trees. Several of these were ex-convicts and one Henry Cullen had been in Port Macquarie at the same time as Abraham.

Abraham or Mordecai's Solomon's name should appear in the 1828 Census but there is neither an Abraham or a Mordecai Solomon listed in the Illawarra or in any other district.

There were official complaints about the 1828 Illawarra census being considerably late with its lodgement and discrepancies with the names listed. It was to be completed by November 1828 but had still not been officially received by May 1829. It was confirmed there were many omissions of people as the census collectors were reluctant to travel over the vast countryside where there were no roads and the vegetation was often impenetrable. This was apart from the fear of the unruly inhabitants of the sawyer's camps. At this time there were many reports of escaped convicts and ex-convicts, - termed bushrangers- harassing, often with violence, the local settlers and travellers in the area. ^{xx}

The landowners employed many men on their vast properties in many ways. Henry Osborne in 1829 brought a workforce of 30 men with varying trades to his property of 2,560 acres at Marshall Mount. As well as his assigned convicts some of the workforce were ex- convicts. In 1837 Abraham Solomon states he is on Mr Osborne's farm.

One of the greatest problems the early landowners encountered was the necessity to clear the land. Settlers who were not granted land or had the wealth to purchase their own land could settle on these properties with a *Clearing Lease*.

"In this district", wrote Joseph Phipps Townsend, a visitor to Illawarra in the late 1840's, "is to be found a numerous class of small settlers called 'clearing-lease men'. They take a small piece of uncleared land (each about thirty acres) on condition of having it rent-free for six years, and form on it a kind of shanty, much in the style of a gipsy's tent; being often nothing more than a bark roof placed on the ground. Under this they live whilst they clear and improve their little holding; though ultimately they run up very decent huts. By the time their original tenancy expires, they have generally got on pretty well in the world, and can afford to pay about ten pounds a-year for their now reclaimed land. Most of these men have a dairy cow and a mare, which get their own living under the mountains; and the sale of their butter and their crops, and the money they occasionally earn from the other settlers and labourers, keep the pot boiling.

The *Clearing Leases* gave men like Abraham a means of living rent free whilst making a living and accruing some wealth by selling the timber they felled on these properties. After the cedar had been felled and sold the land then needed to be cleared of other timber to enable crops to be sown.

"They had first to improvise some shelter in which to live until the first small part of the brush was felled and burnt off. The felling itself was very tough work. At first, the vines and undergrowth had to be removed sufficiently to secure a proper fall. The use of an axe from daylight to dark by one unused to such work meant blistered hands and hard sore muscles. Their living conditions were very simple, slab or

cabbage-tree huts with bark or cabbage-tree roofs, earth floor, no windows, large wooden fireplace stretching the whole width of the room and protected by stones. The fires were of great logs over which hung the pots and camp oven above and suspended from an iron cross bar.

The camp oven was a broad rather shallow pot and in it the women made delightful bread. The light was a home-made candle. The food was porridge, colonial oven bread, beef or pork, generally boiled and mostly corned with poultry and a plentiful supply of game, together with potatoes, pumpkins, turnips, and whatever green vegetables could be grown. The women soon learnt to make hats from the fans of the cabbage palm - hats worn by practically every man and boy in Illawarra.

As soon as a small area was burned off it was planted with wheat, maize, potatoes and turnips. When possible, the wheat was sent to a mill, but often the settlers had to be satisfied with meal ground on the farm.”^{xxi}

Abraham appears to have been settled near Solomon’s Creek, most likely with a Clearing Lease.

There is evidence of Abraham Solomon in the Illawarra in 1834 on a petition to Governor Burke, who visited the area in May 1834, requesting the construction of roads in the district.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser in recording Governor Burke’s visit on 1st May 1834 states the Illawarra has been settled and inhabited upwards of 16 years and no road whatsoever has been laid out.

The state of the roads was cause for constant complaint. Considerable money was invested by the citizens themselves to improve, or in some cases actually form, the roads. The way up or down the escarpment was a prohibitive avenue for travel both of people or produce, for many decades. River and creek crossings were a constant danger and again it was years before bridges were built. The lower marsh lands around Lake Illawarra were the cause of many carriage disasters.

No marriage registration to Elizabeth Hains has been found but it is presumed they were given permission to marry probably in the second half of 1835.^{xxii}

Elizabeth, then aged 25 years, had arrived on the female immigrant ship, the *David Scott*, in October 1834.

Elizabeth’s name is not listed in the Agent’s Dispersal Lists. These showed the day they left the ship and who they were employed by and their wage.

		1854	
	ages		ages
Maria Buckner	16	Sarah Wilkinson	28
Harriett Jones	22	Caroline Marshall	16
Clarissa Clarke	23	Amelia Marshall	15
Ann Handcock	20	Mary Winkle	39
Sarah Lane	16	Elsa Bowser	23
Lydia Bullock	28	Anna Sant	31
Mary Ann Weymouth	17	Ann Bellamy	28
Sarah Pond	17	Ann Graham	20
Elizabeth Hains	24	Elizabeth Stait	16

There is evidence, later, that her brother Isaac is living close by in the Illawarra. He married Rosetta Nathan in 1840.^{xxiii}

Abraham had spent his time since his arrival firstly only having a social life with other convicts. His association with mainly male companions in the following ten years was a result of the situation of where he found work. If he frequented Michael Hyam's Harp Inn he may have found enjoyment in the companionship of people of the Jewish faith with whom he could once again share his culture and rituals.

He appears to meet Isaac Hains around this time. The Hains family lived in Poplar in the East end of London so they may have found a familiarity in a shared companionship with links to his homeland.

Michael Hyam built the Harp's Inn at Sarah's Valley, the site of today's Jamberoo, There is evidence he applied for a publican's license and it was also a place for travellers to stay.

^{xxiv}

"It was wearing late when we passed through magnificent trees and reached Hyam's public house. The Jews made us as comfortable as they could but the place was small, not very clean and very expensive. (Spark's diary October 1837)

Isaac and Elizabeth's sister Rachel was married to Abraham Abrahams by Hyam in 1841 agreeably to the Hebraic rites by Michael Hyam at Sarah's Valley on 12th September 1841^{xxv}

As a girl from the suburb of Poplar in the crowded east end of London, what Elizabeth thought of the remoteness of the farm or the slab hut dwelling can only be considered. Even with the land cleared for agriculture and stock, the farms were secluded and surrounded by the lush native vegetation.

However, Abraham and Elizabeth were becoming quite a family.

Sarah their first child who was born on 1st May 1836 in the Illawarra.

A son Myer follows with his birth on 9th September 1837.

Jane's birthplace is listed as the Illawarra on 15th December 1838.

Henry on 1st September 1840.^{xxvi}

On the registrations they all have Mordecai as their father, but the registration may have taken place at a much later date, than the actual birth. The volume is recorded as 136 which is from the Sydney Jewish records.^{xxvii}

Abraham had obviously accumulated some wealth as in February 1837 he applied for permission to purchase 100 acres of Crown Land on Dapto creek. The land was being sold for a pound an acre.

The application was to purchase 100 acres of Crown Land in the Parish of Camden in the Illawarra, bounded on the East by Government land, on the West by Dapto Creek, the South by John Burnett's farm and the North by Government land. This was part of the Crown Land, Great Reserve. In June 1836 Surveyor Elliott had been ordered to lay out all of the Great Reserve into farms not exceeding 100 acres. Prior to this in 1829 another part of the Great Reserve had already been divided into 100 acre lots for grants to Army Veterans.

When surveyor Knapp was instructed to survey this land in 1829 it was the first recorded use of the name Dapto. This became the general usage of the area south of the district of Wollongong and north of the district of Kiama

He states he is Free and arrived on the ship Shipley 2nd from Woolage (sic Woolwich) in the month of November in the year 1818.

As Abraham is shown on other documents to be illiterate this would have been scribed for him on the document

It states on the document that he is on Mr Osborne's Farm.

Henry Osborne was beginning to acquire many other properties in the Dapto District as well as others further afield. His brothers John and Alick were also land owners in the Illawarra.

37/26 Extra 3 A.S. rec
APPLICATION of *Abram Solomon*
of *10th March 1837* in *Mr. Burnett's farm* for permission
to purchase Land.

DATED *14th February 1837*

SIR,
BEING desirous to purchase the following *One hundred Acres*
of Land, I request you will obtain the GOVERNOR'S authority that it may
be put up to Sale at the Minimum Price determined by the Government, agreeably
to the Regulations of 1st August, 1831, and 1st November, 1833, viz.—†

*One hundred Acres of Land in the District
of Shawana bounded on the East by
Government land, on the West by Dabto Creek
on the South by John Burnett's farm,
and on the North by Government land.*

I am Free, and arrived in the Colony by the Ship *Shepley 2nd*
from *Woolage* in the Month of *November*
of the Year 18*38*.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient humble Servant,

Abram Solomon

To

The SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Abraham must have been anxious that he had not been given a reply to his request. The letter explaining the delay in laying out the Reserve is dated 12th October 1838. It explained that due to irregularities of the surveying of the land, the sale of the land was blocked so Abraham did not gain possession. It sold in 1843.

38/10829 - 12th October 1838.
 Explanatory of delay in laying out Reserve
 at Alawarra into allotments.
 Surveyor General's Office
 No 38/1405. 10 October 1838

Blomond

Read
 15.
 G.B. 16 Oct.
 J. H. 17.

Sir
 In attention to your
 letter of the 24th ultimo No
 38/112 referring to my report
 on the application of Mr.
 Abram Solomon for permission
 to purchase one hundred
 acres of land at Alawarra,
 and requiring explanation of
 the cause of delay which has
 taken place in laying out the
 great Reserve; I have the
 honor to explain for the
 information of His Excellency
 the Governor that the delay
 has been occasioned by the
 neglect of the Surveyors for-
 merly employed in the district

The Honourable
 The Colonial Secretary

The move to Gerard Gerard's Dunlop Vale may have been with the intention of farming his own portion of this land. By the 1840's most of the former large grants of land were being settled with many smaller farms, the owners, mostly leaseholders, making their own living by selling produce and stock, or products of their trade.

An advertisement for the sale of a 100 acre farm fronting Dapto Creek in 1842 gives an indication as to the state of development of these farms.

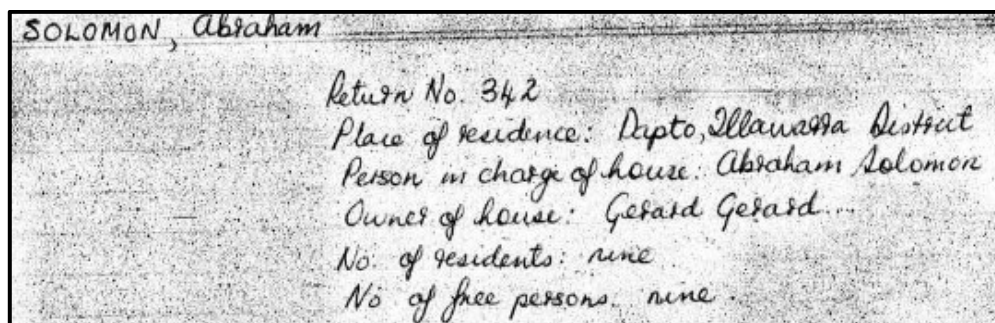
Thirty acres of the land is cleared and in cultivation, thirty acres is of rich brush land and the remaining forty acres good forest land with a quantity of timber well adapted for building purposes. There is a five-acre pig paddock. The whole of the farm is fenced with a substantial three-railed fence. The buildings on the property are a slabbed dwelling house, men's huts and a barn.

Abraham Solomon is listed living in Dapto in the 1841 census. (There was no township at this date but the district was Dapto as distinct from Wollongong district further north and the district of Kiama to the south.)

This was on land owned by Gerard Gerard whose only land holding was the property of Dunlop Vale. In the district of Dapto^{xxviii}

On examining the family makeup, recorded in the census, it relates with that of Mordecai and Elizabeth's family. Also on the next portion of land on Gerard Gerrard's property *Dunlop Vale*, was Isaac Haines.

Although no other family names, besides Abraham's is mentioned, the ages correspond with members of his family^{xxix}.



Abraham Solomon 1841 Census.

On the property owned by Gerard Gerrard.

Dapto, Illawarra,

It states the dwelling is constructed of wood and is complete.

Apart from two other male workers and a single female the family make up corresponds with the family of Mordecai.

Male child under two ; 1; *Henry* born December 1840

Female children aged between two and seven years; 2; *Sarah* born 1836 and *Jane* born 1838.

Male child between two and seven years; 1; *Myer* born 1837

Single females between 25 and 45 years; one- Rachel, Elizabeth's sister?

Married female between 25 and 45 years; 1; **Elizabeth (née Haines)- Arrived free**

Single males between 25 and 45 years; two?

Married male between 25 and 45 years ; 1; **Abraham /Mordecai- Other free person.**

The family are listed as Jewish. The single female listed as Jewish most likely is Elizabeth's sister Rachel Haines who had arrived in Australia in 1839.^{xxx}

It is assumed that the Rebecca Haines, recorded as a Bounty Immigrant on the *Mary* - stating she is the daughter of Henry Haines, Curiosity Shopkeeper and mother Catherine aged 22 years in 1839 is actually Rachel who was 28years. No immigrant record for a Rachel Haines could be found and there is no further evidence of a Rebecca Haines in any records. As she is listed as a servant, she may have altered her age as to better her chance of being selected as a Bounty Immigrant and perceived to be a more marriageable age. This was not uncommon.

The two single males are Catholic and Church of England.

The adult males are all involved in agriculture/farming.

In 1839 Mr Solomon does appear at Dapto, in *the New South Wales and Port Phillip General Post Office Directory*.

As it is unclear why and when the family actually left the Illawarra. The following children could possibly also have lived there, as there is no indication of Abraham /Mordecai being in Sydney before 1848.

Ellen born 1st July 1842

Joseph 26th July 1844

Catherine 21st October 1846

The lifestyle may have been too remote for Elizabeth brought up in the bustling east end of London, or the life was becoming too strenuous for Abraham.

An *Abraham Solomon's* name appears in 1849-50 Historical Electoral Roll residing in Pitt St.^{xxxii} In the 1851-2 directory a *Mordecai A Solomon* is listed in the same position, of names, in Pitt St. In 1852 at the time of Elizabeth's death the address is Pitt St South. The Waugh and Cox's directory of 1855 lists *Mordecai Abraham Solomon*, general dealer of 241 Pitt St.

In February 1855, at the time of his daughter Sarah's wedding, *Mordecai* states his residence at Strawberry Hills and advises he is formerly of Dapto, Illawarra.

MARRIED.
At the Sydney Synagogue, York-street, by the Rev. Jacob Isaacs, on Wednesday, 21st instant, Mr. George Myers, Brickfield-hill, to Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr. Mordecai Solomon, of Strawberry Hills, late of Dapto, Illawarra.

Married. At the Sydney Synagogue York St, by the Rev Jacob Isaacs on Wednesday, 21st instant, Mr George Myers, Brickfield Hill, to Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr Mordecai Solomon of Strawberry Hills, late od Dapto, Illawarra.

It would not have been at all unusual at the time for an ex-convict to remove evidence of a past life and be presented as a respectable member of society, to enhance his business opportunities and to remove the prejudice of his past on his family. It would not have been as easy to remove the mental and physical scarring.

Mordecai now makes his living as a merchant. Australia at the time had practically no manufacturing, apart from artisans, so most merchandise was imported. Ships arriving, and the warehouses, that distributed these goods would regularly advertise their assortment of cargo and stock. The goods that were imported were then advertised for auction by firms such as Purkiss and Lambert.

Lewis, their last child was born on 1st November 1848.

Tragically four years later Elizabeth died on 2nd November 1852, leaving a young family.

Elizabeth is buried on 3rd November 1852 in the Devonshire St Cemetery

[This closed to burials 1867 and the cemetery closed in 1888 for the construction of Central Railway in 1901, the family were able to reinter her body to Rookwood Cemetery.]^{xxxiii}

At her residence, Pitt St south, Sydney on Tuesday 2nd November 1852, Mrs Elizabeth Solomon aged 43 years, leaving an affectionate husband and eight children to deplore their loss.

Elizabeth's sister Rachel is living in close proximity and may have assisted in caring for the young children.

GOLD

The 1850's is the time of the beginning of the gold rushes in Australia. Men of all walks of life first headed off initially to the goldfields towards Bathurst, before so many deserted jobs and wives and families and trekked huge distances to the ensuing Victorian goldfields to try their luck.

Mordecai Solomon and his brother-in-law, Abraham Abrahams were granted by the Magistrates, Pedlar's licences in September 1853. This allowed them to be Hawkers selling products whilst on foot.^{xxxiii}

It is well documented that Abraham Abrahams and Mordecai's sons and other family members became involved in using their trading skills to profit from the goldfields at Kiandra, Rocky River, Burrangong, North Queensland and New Guinea..^{xxxiv}

There were many complaints reported in the newspapers of the exorbitant prices the storekeepers were charging. It is stated that some storekeepers made more money from the diggers than most made from the arduous work of digging for gold. The storekeepers were often paid in gold for the purchases.

Mordecai was well placed in the southern part of Sydney to provide goods and utensils to men travelling along the roads out of Sydney to the goldfields. However, Myer was now 16 years old and even with 13 year old Henry may well have used the Hawker's license to actually travel to the gold fields selling all the variety of goods needed for individuals to survive in the primitive conditions. There is evidence that Myer, George and Henry Myers and Abraham Abrahams opened stores in other goldfields such as Kiandra and Rocky River at Uralla. Prospecting would certainly have been on the agenda for these young lads. Mordecai's brothers-in-law of Adelaide, Charles Hains and his brother were prospecting for gold also at the Snowy River (Kiandra) diggings.^{xxxv}

While it is difficult to ascertain for certain where the finance was sourced from Mordecai had acquired sufficient wealth to once again consider purchasing property.

The properties of 'Alma Terrace' in Yurong Street Woolloomooloo are advertised for sale in The Empire on 26th November 1855.^{xxxvi}

In August 1856 Mordecai Solomon purchases four properties, containing 10 dwellings, at Yurong St Woolloomooloo. Seven of the dwellings are on Yurong St and three others are at the rear in Ceil St (Seale St)

These cost a total of Five thousand, five hundred and eighty two pounds and eleven shillings. £5,582/11/0. (Number 66 sold in February 2021 for \$3million dollars.)



The Row of terraces *Alma Terrace* in Yurong St Darlinghurst.

The number of Mordecai's dwelling was originally number 43. This was the first house of the row of Alma Terrace closest to William St. at the corner of Redgate Lane. (now Printers Lane) Advertisements for letting the properties in 1856 and 1857 give Mordecai's address as number 43 Yurong St.



The dwelling of Mordecai in Alma Terrace originally number 43.

The house numbers changed several times over the years. His daughter Sarah and husband George Myers are shown as living in numbers 62, 64 then 72.

Mordecai in 1864 is also living with them at number 72.

George Myers of 62 Yurong is listed in the Sands directory as *Myers and Solomon*. Sarah and George's son's death in 1867 shows them living in 62 Yurong St.

At the time of the sale in 1876 the numbers of the Alma Terrace were from 68 to 80. From 1888 to the present time the first dwelling -the original 43-became number 60 with the row of terraces ending at 72 on the corner of Seale St.

On 30th October 1857, there is evidence he took out a mortgage on the property raising £3,000 in funds from George Wigram Allen, this was for one year with interest to be paid quarterly. Mordecai signed this document with his mark X.

£3,000 is the amount Mordecai appears to be involved with in the insolvency of the company of *Abrahams and Myers* and maybe the necessity for borrowing this amount. This document may give credence to the fact that Mordecai's finances were enmeshed with businesses of other family members.

(George Myers, Abraham Abrahams and Nathaniel Phillips were seeking Insolvency in regard to their store at the Rocky River Goldfields at Uralla)

In the estate of Abrahams, Myers and Co a second meeting was held.

The Insolvent Abrahams was examined by Mr Dawson in reference to a Bill Of Sale, given to Mr M Solomon to secure £3,000 advance made as security for certain endorsements of that gentleman given to the firm.

)

In 1864 a petition by householders and residents of the neighbourhood of Woolloomooloo show the address of Mordecai, George and Henry Myers at 72 Yurong St, and Henry Solomon of Yurong St.

31st July 1858 he repaid the mortgage on the property to George Wigram Allen with the sum of £2,172/2/10.

31st July 1858 Mordecai took out a mortgage on the property raising £2,250 in funds from George Oakes of Parramatta, This was for one year with interest to be paid quarterly. He again signed by making his mark X

24th January 1876 he repaid the mortgage to George Wigram Allen with the sum of £2,385.

24th January 1876 Mordecai sold the property to a William James Thomas of the North Shore, Gentleman, for £2,700. (who used funds from George Oakes of Parramatta)

This document was again signed by Mordecai with his mark X.

In January 1876 at the time of the sale of the Yurong St properties the sale document gives Mordecai's address at Miller's Point

In 1876 Mordecai may have been in poor health as he is living with Sarah and George Myers in their home at *Moorecliffe* 1 *Victoria Terrace*, Moore's Road, Miller's Point.

They did not own the property.

Their daughter Ethel was born in September 1873 at "Moorcliff" Millers Point and their son Maurice in August 1877.^{xxxvii}

In 1879 Mrs Myers- Sarah- advertises for a servant at 1 Victoria Terrace Moore's Rd, Millers Point.

This family moved to *Eglinton* on Glebe Point Rd Glebe in 1882. George Myers died a few months later on 27th March 1882.

Mordecai was living here with his daughter Sarah, when he died a year later on 9th March 1883.

From Death Certificate (Reg No 03196):^{xxxviii}

Medical attendant at death - Dr Hunter;

Informant - Henry Myer Jr Grandson, Eglinton, Glebe Point; Registered 27 March 1883 Glebe; Undertaker - Simon Goodman; Minister - Reverend Phillipstein; Witnesses - Mark Myers, Henry Myers Jnr.

Time in colony - 65 years;

Spouse - Elizabeth Haines; Place married - Sydney; Children of marriage - 3 males, 3 females living, 1 male, 1 female deceased

He was buried in the Rookwood Cemetery, Old Jewish Ground. Section A, row 12 plot 394 and his now crumbling headstone reads:

Sacred to the memory of Mordecai Solomon
who departed this life 9th March 1883 aged 83.
Went to the next world on 50 Adar 5643

May his soul rest in peace.
Here lies a man with fulfilled life

Mordecai son of Meir
May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life

© 2021.Roberta Madsen.

A story written to encourage the interest of my grandchildren of the rich heritage of their ancestors and their connection to Australian history.

From Mordecai they are descended from

Myer 1837-1906 and Julia Rebecca Barnett.

Lewis 1873-1945 and Eliza Mary Frank

Lewis Myer William 1906-1996 and Ellen Josephine Hall

Elizabeth Blanche (Betty)Solomon 1927-2006 and James Stanley Grant

HAINS/HAINES FAMILY

Elizabeth was the third child of Henry (Hyam) Isaac Haines and Catherine née Russell, born in 1809 in Poplar, Middlesex, England.

Henry was a shopkeeper, at 1 Robin Hood Lane, Poplar. In the 1845 Trade Directory of London he is listed as a Curiosity Dealer.

In the 1840 London City Directory he is listed as a Conchologist. (A collector and studier of shells-molluscs). He was born in 1778 and died in 1858.

Henry (Hyam) died in the Ashkenazi Jewish Hospital in Mile End London on 1st May 1858, aged 80 years. His death notice was in the South Australian paper.

Most of the Haines(Hains) children emigrated to Australia

Isaac born 1807 came to the Illawarra and later Sydney. Married Rosetta Nathan in 1840 in NSW. He died in Sydney in 1874.

Jane born 1808 arrived on the *Troubadour* in March 1850. Died in Port Adelaide, South Australia on 7th January 1897 aged 89.

Elizabeth arrived October 1834.

Rachel born 1811 arrived on the *Mary* 2nd November 1839. She appears to have used the name Rebecca and a younger age of 22 years instead of 27 years, as more likely to be accepted in the Emigration scheme. Listed as servant, Father, Hyam, Mother, Kate. Went to Illawarra and is probably the single Jewish female on the Solomon family 1841 census.

Married Abraham Abrahams 12th September 1841 by Michael Hyam of the Harp's Inn, Sarah's Valley NSW.

Died in Sydney, 22nd June 1909.

Philip born 1818 married Esther Myers January 1844 in London. Arrived Port Adelaide on *Troubadour* March 1850.

Died 2nd December 1887, in Port Adelaide, South Australia aged 69 years.

John born 1820. Married Ann Davey 26th November 1849 at St Paul's Church, Port Adelaide

Died 27th February 1896, Port Adelaide South Australia, aged 76 years.

Charles born 1821. Married Hannah Myers 1845.

Died 14th February 1893 in Portland, Port Adelaide, South Australia, aged 72 years.

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ⁱ NSWBDM Death Registration 3196/1883

ⁱⁱ NLA Trove Sydney Daily Advertiser 7 September 1848

ⁱⁱⁱ NSWRA Aust Historical Rolls1842-1864CQS1199

^{iv} Accessed Ancestry.com Web ;London England Proceedings of the Old Bailey Online.

<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse>

^v Proceedings of the Old Bailey 18170416 James Argent had previously been 'involved' in another case where a valuable long-haired grey rabbit had been stolen. A James argent of the right age was reported hanged at a later date,

^{vi} The National Archives of the UK Kew Surrey England *Newgate Prison Calendar*. Piece Number 24

^{vii} TNA of Kew, Surrey England. *Australian Convict Transportation Registers-Other leet and Ships 1791-1868*

^{viii} Ibid

^{ix} TNA Admiralty Records NLA JCP

^x HUNT, David. *GIRT* 2013 McPherson Printing Group.

^{xi} NSWRA Colonial Secretary's Papers. Series 897 *Letter to Hannibal MacArthur and Magistrates Parramatta re Distribution of Shipley convicts*

^{xii} NSW SRA *1822 Population Muster* . NSW Census and Population Books 1811-1825

^{xiii} NSWRA ColSec Letters. *John Grant agreement re felling timber at Campbell Town*. August 1821

^{xiv} NSWRA ColSec Letters. *Memorials to the Governor*. Letters sent outside the colony.

^{xv} NSWRA ColSec Letters Series 987 *Gaol Descriptions and Entrance Books*. Series 2514 Item4/6360

^{xvi} NSW STATE Archives and Records Authority *Gaol Descriptions and Entrance Books. Series 2514 Item4/6360 Colonial Secretary's Letters Series 987*

^{xviii} *A Place of Banishment* Iain McLachlan . Hale and Ironmonger 1988.

^{xix} NSWRA *Register of Certificates of Freedom*

^{xx} NSW State Archives and Record Authority. 1828 Census Data. Record Series 1272. *Complaints 1828 Reels 905 [4/3872] Letters dated 20th and 29th May 1829*. Census was supposed to have been completed by November 1828 but the ILLAWARRA returns were still not received in Sydney as late as May 1829. It was found not to have a comprehensive coverage.

^{xxi} MACDONALD, W. G. Nineteenth Century Dapto A *Numerous Class of Settler*. 1976 Illawarra Historical Society.

^{xxii} No official registration from Early Church records is in NSWBDM. Timeline is from the birth of their first child Sarah in May 1836..

^{xxiii} NSWBDM Marriage registered in Sydney Synagogue Church Record EA Volume 135.

^{xxiv} NSW State Archives and Record Authority . Series 14401 Reel 5055. Certificate for Publican's Licence £30. 28th June 1839.

^{xxv} NLA Trove *The Australian 23 September 1841*. Family Notices Marriage .

^{xxvi} Information on birthdates provided by Adrian Paul from Ellen Solomon's prayer book in family possession..

^{xxvii} NSW BDMs

^{xxviii} MACDONALD W.G. *Nineteenth Century Dapto*. Illawarra Historical Society.

Gerard Gerard a merchant, came from Bristol England and acquired 1,000 acres in 1839, of the original grant of 2,000 acres to John Dunmore Lang. He was instrumental in the embryo of the dairying industry in the Illawarra. On the death of his daughter and later his son in 1859 he returned to England. He called his home *Australia Cottage* in Exmouth Devon, where he died in August 1862.

^{xxix} 1841 Census NSW State Archives and Records.

^{xxx} Rachel Hains is presumed to have been listed on the Immigrant ship *Mary* as Rebecca Hains whose parents are Henry and Catherine. There is no further record of a Rebecca and no record found of a Rachel arriving.

^{xxxi} NSW State Archives and Records Authority. *New South Wales, Australia Historical Electoral Rolls Macquarie Ward. 1842-1864 CGS 1199*

^{xxxix} Malcolm Sainty's publication on the re burials states that those with no notification by the family were taken by special tramway to the purposefully built Bunnerong Cemetery (Botany Cemetery) now Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park. It is believed a permit was issued for her reinternment at Rookwood by the family.

^{xxxiii} NLA Trove SMH Wednesday 14th September 1853.

^{xxxiv} NLA Trove Myer at Kiandra, Burrangong. Hains at Kiandra. Myers and Solomon at Kiandra. George Myers and Abraham Abrahams at Rocky River .Joseph in North Queensland and consequently Woodlark island New Guinea.

^{xxxv} NLA Trove *Charles Hains Obituary*. 'The Advertiser' Adelaide South Australia Wednesday 15th February 1893. Went to Snowy River Goldfields 1859.

^{xxxvi} See attached timeline of Land Records of properties purchased by Mordecai and his financial dealings.

Appendix 1

PORT MACQUARIE PENAL SETTLEMENT

A Place of Banishment Iain McLachlan. Hale and Irenmonger 1988.

A History of Port Macquarie to 1850. Edited by Frank Rogers for the Hastings District Historical Society 1982

In October 1824 there were 1,111 convicts. Many of these were able to apply their trades. There were 16 clerks, 4 schoolmasters, 65 overseers employed over gangs in various public works. 47 constables operating in the town, in bush parties and various out-stations.

60 servants, 20 wardsmen, 5 bakers, 2 barbers, 3 tanners, a miller, a rope maker, 2 orderlies, 9 in a store gang, 20 carpenters, 3 shinglers, 2 coopers, 5 blacksmiths with 10 nailors and 11 labourers. 20 were tailors and shoemakers. Brickmakers, bricklayers and plasterers with labourers attending.

In addition there were 73 men in cedar parties up the river with another 15 procuring flooded gum, with 9 splitting shingles. 37 sawyers sawing cedar, pine, white wood and sassafras plank. The boat crews were employed hauling timber, procuring ti-tree rafters and bringing gum logs and shingles down the river. Men conveying the sawed timber for boat and building construction. Other gangs were used for clearing, gardening, fencing, roadmaking, boat harbour construction and in the quarry.

268 were at the agricultural establishments up the river of which there were, 246 labourers, 12 overseers, 8 constables and 2 servants.

81 were in the sugar plantation party, 74 labourers, 4 overseers, 2 constables and 1 servant. 43 were in the stockyard establishment.

There were 10 women prisoners in the Settlement.

The prisoners daily ration was 1½lb of wheaten meal or 2lb of bread, 1lb of beef or 9½ozs of pork