Henry Cohen

(1790–1867)
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Editor’s note

I became interested in my ancestry in the late 1970s. I wondered how I came to be born in Sydney, Australia, rather than in some other part of the world.\(^1\) I was in possession of some items from my great-great-grandfather, Philip Cohen, and my father was aware of a ‘Lord [sic] Mayor of Melbourne’ and a ‘Supreme Court Judge’ somewhere in the family tree. The rest was a blank. No one before had apparently been interested in our genealogy—or, maybe they had but did not like what they found. Well, the skeleton is there, great-great-great-grandfather Henry—‘the Con.’

My father has fond recollections of a great-aunt Sarah (a cousin of ‘the Judge’) who died in her 90th year, but she apparently never spoke a word about her grandfather, Henry.

Today, it is difficult for us to appreciate the stigma that, in the past, was apparently felt by those who were descended from an emancipist. At the very least they did not advertise the fact. Maybe that was part of the reason why all six of Henry’s sons left Sydney for other parts of the Big Island. (I am living in Sydney now because the son Philip, and his family, after about 30 years away, mostly in Launceston and Melbourne, eventually returned to Sydney.)

The editor of the 1964 reprint of The Memoirs of James Hardy Vaux, Noel McLachlan, remarked that ‘the convict phase is now sufficiently remote for people to approach it with interest free from embarrassment.’ Not so apparently for some. The Hon. Edward Cohen’s entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, published in 1969, makes no mention of the reason his mother Elizabeth brought him and the rest of the children out to the Colony. Apparently, descendants of Henry’s first ten children—those who actually came out ‘free’ with their mother—may infer either ‘free’ or ‘convict’ descent, depending on which is socially the most appropriate for the company they are in at the time!

There are at least two memoirs, written by educated transportees, which give some indication of the conditions that may have been experienced by Henry Cohen after his conviction: the abovementioned The Memoirs of James Hardy Vaux and J. F. Mortlock’s Experiences of a Convict. Both describe graphically the shocking experience of being confined on an English Hulk; Vaux describes his stay in a land-based prison prior to transportation (his wife used to stay overnight), his second voyage to Botany Bay (p.202), and thereafter the not-so-terrible conditions obtainable by an educated convict—if he behaved himself.\(^2\) Vaux’s story is additionally interesting in that he describes some of his dealings with the various ‘fences’ to whom he had disposed of his ill-gotten gains—most of whom seem to have been ‘Jews’.

When researching a very old Jewish name such as ‘Cohen’, it can at times be difficult to be sure that a particular individual is actually the one in which you are interested. There were three Henry Cohens (including another Henry and Elizabeth), brothers Lewis, Samuel, David, George and Abra-

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1. Hilary L. Rubenstein, in her monograph (AJHS Journal, Vol. 9, 1985, Pt. 8) on the Rev. Elias Blaubaum—who married Agnes Rebecca, the daughter of Henry Cohen’s eldest son Samuel Henry—states that Samuel Henry Cohen was ‘a Londoner whose family originated in Amersfoort, Holland, and was related to the Waley-Cohens, distinguished in Anglo-Jewry’. What is the basis for this assertion?

2. Vaux was at Port Macquarie 1831–36 employed ‘in a capacity suited to his abilities’ (clerk again?) (p.1xx of Introduction). It is quite probable that the Cohen family would have been acquainted with him.
ham (issue of Barnett Cohen and Sierlah née Levy), and another Edward (Daniel) Cohen in the Colony during the relevant period. Samuel and Lewis Cohens seem to have abounded.

In the case of government documents it is easier to be certain as convicts were always identified as ‘Name per Ship’ with, in some instances, the year of arrival for good measure, eg, ‘Henry Cohen per Lloyds 1833’, and free persons, where appropriate, were identified as such, eg, ‘Elizabeth Cohen (Free)’. In these notes, where the identity of an individual is unsure the name is prefixed by a query, eg, ‘?Samuel.’

The Family Tree ‘Cohen of Paddington’ researched by William S. Jessop provided the initial stimulation for my researches. However, I believe that some of the ‘leaves’ on Jessop’s Tree are mis-grafted—materially with respect to his belief that Henry had a daughter Sarah.

The primary purpose of this document is therefore to bring together all the previously published information that can be found on this family. It is my intention to continue researching Henry, his children, and grandchildren, and to re-record here any matters of interest thereon, so that this monograph may be of interest to all the descendants of Henry and Elizabeth.

To create a better understanding of the ‘life and times’ of Henry, I will also include notes on any interesting otherwise-related or associated contemporary persons.

Unfortunately, in those days, women—with some rare exceptions—were not involved in commerce, and little is to be found on them. The male usually controlled any business and property, and it is activity of this type that many documents of the times record.

It may well be that I have here re-recorded too much detail, but the detail is about our Cohen ancestors; it is about us; it is not meant for general reading.

If I ever do get to the stage that I consider the exercise finished I may move the footnotes to the end of the document so that the document is less cluttered in appearance. Also, for drafting purposes, I have boldfaced some items within the text to remind myself that further research of that area would be desirable.

With respect to Registrar-General Records it should be appreciated that some errors were introduced thereto during the original copying of pre-1856 Church Records; and many more errors have been introduced during the digital re-recording (for genealogical research purposes) of the later records which have been published on compact disc.

I have found that this curiosity about one’s ancestors whets the appetite for an understanding of that period in general and so I have included a bibliography of the publications, which I have perused during this research.

It has not been my intention to re-invent the wheel and so I have quoted the findings of other researchers with due acknowledgment, and in some cases critical comment in an appendix; and, while the purpose of these notes remains for private study or research, copies thereof may be freely distributed without obligation to the various copyright owners of any of the material contained herein.

Any comment (critical or otherwise) on, or contribution to, the notes developed to date would be appreciated and may be addressed to the author/editor, Philip C. Cohen, at 27 O’Neill Street, Brighton-Le-Sands (on Botany Bay!), NSW 2216, Australia. Telephone +61 (0)2 9587 5540; Facsimile +61 (0)2 9587 5640; Mobile +61 (0)408 400 911; Email: formset@exemail.com.au or phil@antiquearmsauctions.com.au.

Philip Charles Cohen (1940–)

1. It was then a relatively small Jewish community. Although they did not intermarry directly, a number of the children of Barnett and Sierlah and Henry and Elizabeth did marry siblings from other families: Barnett’s Lewis m. Sarah Hyams, Samuel m. Rachel Nathan, David m. Julia Nathan, and George m. Rose Solomon; Henry’s Caroline m. Arthur Isaac Nathan, Samuel Henry m. Eliza Hyams, and William m. Sarah Solomon. Also, Lewis Wolfe Levy married Julia Solomon a sister of Rose and Sarah. A number of grandchildren of these two early-in-NSW Cohen families did intermarry. And, at a later date, Henry’s great-granddaughter Elma Hart married (Sir) Samuel Sydney Cohen, a great-grandson of Barnett and Sierlah.

2. Jessop, W. S. ‘Genealogies of Jewish Families in Australia’ (among them, ‘ACII—Cohen of Paddington’), La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria, MS 8553/69. But, note that a Caroline was Henry’s fourth daughter, born c.1827; and ‘Sarah’ was not his daughter; and, Nancy was the eldest child (not the sixth), born c.1812 (married Joseph Simmons in 1832); and, William was the sixth son; therefore Lewis must have been the fifth; and, William died 1871 and Jane 1907.
London, England

Henry Cohen\(^1\) was born in London, England, c1790, the son of Nathan Cohen and Priscilla Frances (née Benjamin). He had at least two sisters, Frances (Fanny)\(^2\) and Catherine (who married Abraham Ellis, 30 October 1805)\(^3\) and one brother, Benjamin Wolf Cohen (1788–1842)\(^4\), (who married Frances Phillips?). In 1809, at 20 years of age, Henry married Elizabeth (c1792–1866) the daughter of Nathan Simons/Simmons\(^5\) and Sarah (née Phillips/Frankil)\(^6\).

Henry’s nephew, Daniel Cohen, a son of Benjamin Wolf Cohen, also came out to Australia, presumably some time after Henry had re-established himself in Sydney. Daniel settled in Victoria\(^7\).

Henry’s paternal grandfather apparently was also named Benjamin Wolf Cohen.

As a witness called at the trial of Edward Phillips on 18 September 1811 (see appendices) Henry described himself as being a ‘taylor and slop-seller’ and as living at ‘69, High-street, Shadwell’, in the parish of St. Paul, Shadwell’.

Later, as a witness called at the Old Bailey trial of his brother-in-law James Simons (see appendices) and others on 2 June 1813, Henry described himself as being a ‘slop-seller’ and as living in Rosemary-lane. And, from a reading of the transcript of this trial it is somewhat surprising that a few of the other people mentioned therein were not also convicted of at least ‘receiving’ and transported to Botany Bay along with (the two?) Simons.

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1. A reproduction of the portrait of Henry Cohen appears on p.241 of Levi & Bergman’s *Australian Genesis*. The original portrait is in the possession of the Theomin family of Melbourne.
2. Mentioned incidentally in the Old Bailey trial of James Simons and others, the transcript of which is appended.
3. In his Will, Henry bequeathed the sum of £25 to his ‘nephew Nathan Ellis of London’.
5. This family name of “Simons” has become “Simmons” in every reference I have sighted in Australia.
6. Elizabeth’s death certificate (certified by her son-in-law, Abraham Cohen) indicates her mother’s maiden name was Phillips; the transcript of James Simons’ trial suggests that it was Frankil.
7. I have had contact with Maureen O’Neill of Yarram, Victoria, who is descended from this Daniel Cohen.
In June 1821 Henry was described as a Salesman of 3 Rosemary Lane (by the Tower of London). In December 1822 he is described as a clothes salesman of 4 Sharpe’s Buildings Rosemary Lane. In November 1824 he is described as a clothes salesman of 111 Edgeware Road, Marylebone.\(^1\) **In October 1821[?] he removed to 91 Edgeware Road, Paddington.** And, in 1829, he is described as a Tailor and salesman of 111 Edgeware Road.\(^2\)

In 1832 Henry had a large retail shop premises at 126 Edgeware Road, Paddington, Middlesex, from where he carried on a business of selling new and used clothing.\(^3\) At that time he had ten children: four girls and six boys. His eldest daughter, Nancy, had married his young brother-in-law, Joseph Simmons, in London, in 1832.

Henry was a relatively successful businessman. He claimed in his written defence at his Trial that his business ‘returned’ him £4000 to £5000 per year. When he was detained at Bow Street Police Station he had on his person—in addition to the stolen bank promissory notes—a £100 bank note and some sovereigns. This was at a time when a ‘mechanic’ (tradesman) earned about £5? per week, an unskilled worker about £3? per week, and a domestic servant about £2? per week plus board.

**The Old Bailey**

On 18 March 1833, in exchange for some goods from his shop, Henry accepted four Glastonbury bank promissory notes to a value of £30. On 20 March he went to Masterman & Co, agents for the Glastonbury bank, to cash the notes. Apparently, the notes had been stolen and after some investiga-

\(^1\) Sun Insurance policies at Manuscript Dept, Guildhall Library, London. (MS 11936/484/981049; MS 11936/491/999508; MS 11936/501/1021818).

\(^2\) Sun Insurance policies at Manuscript Dept, Guildhall Library, London. (MS 11937; MS 12160 v69 p49) (per George Rigal).

\(^3\) Henry is listed in Pigot’s London Directory, 1832, at page 77 as ‘Cohen Henry, tailor,’ and at page 518, under Tailors & Habit Makers as, ‘*Cohen Henry 126 Edgeware Road*’, the asterisk indicating that he was also a Draper. Edgware/Edgeware—both spellings appear in documents of the time; both even on the above illustrated map. See the Appendix for a description of Paddington about that time.
tions Henry was detained and eventually charged and, at 43 years of age, he was tried at the Old Bailey, 14–16 May 1833, with receiving the promissory notes ‘well knowing them to have been stolen.’ Part of Henry’s written defence states:

… Gentlemen, I have taken these notes in my business, and I am entirely innocent of any guilty knowledge; if I had I would not have gone to Messrs. Masterman and Co. where I must have been well known, having paid at that house monies at different times to a large amount, for bills of exchange accepted by me. I have been in business upwards of twenty years; during that time I never let a bill go unpaid, and up to this present day my credit in the City of London is unlimited; …

Regardless, Henry was found guilty and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. The full transcript of the Trial1 is appended—and a reading of it does make one wonder whether a gentile would have been found guilty in the same circumstances.

To ‘Botany Bay’

The period from 16 May to 26 August 1833, between Henry’s conviction and actual transportation, after at least an initial period in a land-based prison, may have been spent on board one of the prison hulks that were then used to hold convicted persons pending transportation.

J. F. Mortlock in his Experiences of a Convict (at pp.51–56) describes his experience:

A fortnight having elapsed, during which, with all my philosophy, I was fairly stupefied; they conveyed me (chained hand and foot to a man now driving a cab in Tasmania) by railroad to the hulk Leviathan at Portsmouth; and quickly transmogrified me into a strange-looking object, whom no one could recognize. … At any rate I was no longer shut up in gaol, to me the most dreadful of punishments, now, I hoped, done with for ever. This, however, as will be seen, turned out to be a mistaken expectation. The hulk, an old (Trafalgar) ninety-gun ship, being very full, contained more than six hundred convicts (from starvation and discipline, tame as rabbits), housed on the three decks, which were divided into compartments, separated from each other by bulkheads, and from the gangway down the centre, by iron bars, giving the appearance of a menagerie. Owing to the height of the wharf, alongside of which she lay, the larboard row of cells, on the lower deck, was nearly in darkness, and insufficiently ventilated. ‘New chums,’ therefore, in their location down below, breathed very foul air … A pernicious habit also existed of sluicing out all the decks every morning, with salt water … The chilly dampness arising from this, proved a fertile source of sickness.

… As a reward for three months of good behaviour, a light ring (called a basil) above the ankle, scarcely to be felt, succeeded the irons. Upon losing the weightier decorations, my foot in walking used to fly up in an odd manner for some time afterwards, till the muscles grew accustomed to their lighter load. … I found the carrying of timber and other hard work very irksome at first, although labour is not severe punishment to a strong man well fed; but we suffered from a lack of sufficient food … Hence the mortality was great, it being whispered that the head doctor at the hospital ship, enjoyed a contract for supplying surgeons in town with bodies for dissection at six guineas a piece.

… On the evening of the 11th of August, we learned that a ‘bay ship’ (vessels for New South Wales being so-called) had anchored at Spithead; and on the following morning a draft from the two hulks, York and Leviathan, was taken out to her. After eighteen long weeks of dockyard drudgery, I felt glad of the change, being very unwilling to remain at Portsmouth six or seven years on starvation allowance, even for liberty (if I survived), at the expiration of that period; for it was the custom to release men transported for life (when not sent abroad) at the end of eight years of good behaviour, and others in proportion to the terms of their respective sentences.

Before a fair wind, we ran down Channel and entered Plymouth Sound where the ships’ [sic] complement of two hundred prisoners was filled up from another hulk. … [I associated with …] an interesting lad of respectable connections in the north, lately a clerk in the General Post-office, from which he had been tempted to purloin money letters.

Henry was transported to New South Wales aboard the Lloyds, a barque of 403 tons, built at London in 1830, with Edward Garrett, Master, and John Inches, Surgeon Superintendent. Lloyds carried 188 male prisoners and a guard of the 48th Regiment and sailed from Downs on 26 August

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1833 arriving in Sydney on 18 December 1833, a journey of 114 days. The journey was apparently relatively uneventful: Bateson1 states only that 201 males embarked, one male died during the voyage and 198 [sic] males landed at Sydney.

An annotation on some later correspondence2 indicates that the Ship’s Surgeon, John Inches, who was responsible for the well-being of the prisoners while they were aboard ship, may have been encouraged by the family to keep a particular eye on Henry’s well-being during the journey.

During the three months following Henry’s conviction—while he was in custody awaiting transportation—the family would have been busy disposing of their real assets so that they too could remove to New South Wales. It must have been a particularly trying time for Henry’s wife Elizabeth.

**Arrival at Sydney**

Elizabeth and the ten children arrived at Sydney aboard *The Brothers*3 on 21 December 1833—three days after Henry had arrived. *The Brothers* was a ship of 356 tons, with Robert Towns,4 Master, and sailed from London, 28 August 1833, and from Lands End, 3 September 1833.

2. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 36/9001 (AONSW).
3. Report of a Ship arrived in Port Jackson, 21 December 1833 (AONSW: COD27). The ship *The Brothers* (of 356 tons) apparently should not be confused with another ship *Brothers* (of 425 tons, built at Whitby in 1815) that made voyages to NSW as a convict transport in 1824 and 1827.
4. “The skipper of *The Brothers* was her owner Robert Towns (1791–1873). A Northumbrian by birth, he had been at sea since his early youth, and since 1811, in command of the vessel under him. In 1833 he married W. C. Wentworth’s sister. … as a result of his enterprise and capacity as a merchant-trader, squatter and cotton-planter, he would, in the fullness of time, have his name given to a town in Queensland, be appointed to the Legislative Council, and build for himself a home [‘Cranbrook’] which was later, for a period, to be Government House, and subsequently, the core of Cranbrook School.”—Curry, C. H. Sir Francis Forbes. Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1968, p.501. A reproduction of a painting of *The Brothers* is also reproduced opposite p.483. See also Shineberg, Dorothy. *They Came for Sandalwood*. Melbourne University Press, 1967.
Among the 28 passengers listed in ‘cabin’ class were: ‘Mr Joseph Simmons, Merchant; Mrs [Nancy] Simmons [née Cohen]; Mrs Elizabeth Cohen; Miss Sophia Cohen; Miss Ann [sic—Hannah?] Cohen; Miss Caroline Cohen; Master Edward Cohen; Master Samuel Cohen; Master Phillip [sic] Cohen; Master Joseph Cohen; Master Lewis Cohen.’ The sixth male and youngest child, William, is not listed. Possibly an about-two-year-old babe-in-arms was not counted. And, if the later recorded birth date is correct, Elizabeth was, at the time of arrival, about six months pregnant with their fifth daughter, Frances.

Among the seven passengers in ‘steerage’ were Martha Lawler and Elizabeth Solomons, both ‘servants’. Servants to whom? [///check for movement of family to Port Macquarie] [///‘a petition to have him assigned to his son-in-law (and brother-in-law) Joseph Simmons failed about this time’—documentation not yet found!]

Henry’s papers mistakenly indicated that by trade he was a ‘tailor’, and as such he was initially assigned to the Mounted Police. This information was promptly found to be incorrect and he was returned to the Convict Barracks. On his return he was interviewed by the Principal Superintendent of Convicts, Frederick Augustus Hely, who advised the Colonial Secretary on 8 January 1834:2

The Convict Henry Cohen, Lloyds, who was named in the muster list of the ship as a Tailor, and as such applicated [sic] to the mounted police, turns out to have been a Merchant Tailor, and knows nothing of the trade, and he has been accordingly returned by Capt. Williams to the Convict B[arracks].

On seeing this man this morning, and learning somewhat of his history, I find he is one of that class of convicts called ‘special’ but as my impression on this subject may be erroneous I forward him herewith for your inspecture [sic] and for the Commands of His Excellency the Governor, as to his disposal.

This man is a Jew, and was tried for having stolen Bank notes, and I am informed his family have brought a large sum to the colony by the Brothers.

The convict type ‘special’, encompassed those convicts who were considered not to be a threat to, and had skills useful to, the community. This letter is annotated ‘To be sent to Port Macquarie / 10th January 1834.’

The Colonial Secretary’s Office, under the signature of T. C. Harington,3 advised the Principal Superintendent of Convicts on 10 January:4

In rely to your letter of the 8th instant, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to request that the prisoner named in the margin [Henry Cohen, Lloyds] may be forwarded to Port Macquarie by the Governor Phillip sailing tomorrow morning.

And so, on 11 January 1834, Henry was conveyed to Port Macquarie by the brig Governor Phillip.5 The family, sans Joseph and Nancy Simmons, followed. [///docs?]
Henry duly arrived at Port Macquarie, and on 17 January 1834 he was requested as an assigned servant by Major Archibald Clunes Innes:1

Having requested as an assigned servant, the Crown Prisoner named in the margin [H. Cohen, Ship Lloyds 1834 [sic]], the Resident Magistrate states, that he cannot comply with my request without permission from His Excellency The Governor, the prisoner applied for, being a special.

I would therefore request you will be pleased to obtain His Excellency’s sanction to the assignment.

Archibald Innes had previously been the commandant of the Port Macquarie penal settlement and by then was a prominent landholder and magistrate.

The Resident Magistrate, Benjamin Sullivan, on 16 January, likewise requested approvals for the assignments of several ‘specials,’ including Henry Cohen:2

I have the honour to request that you will obtain His Excellency the Governor’s permission for me to assign to private service the following Specials in conformity to your letter No. 33/88 upon the condition that the assignees do not allow them to quit this District without the previous permission of His Excellency or without due legal authority, viz:

- John Walsh or Welsh per ‘Eliza’. To Benjamin Sullivan J.P. as Domestic Servant.
- James Jenkins per ‘Surry’. To his son John Sullivan as Farm Labourer.

The assignments were approved by the Governor and the Colonial Secretary’s Office advised the Board for the Assignment of Servants:3

I do myself the honour to inform you that in Compliance with the recommendation of the Resident Magistrate at Port Macquarie, His Excellency the Governor has sanctioned the following assignments at that settlement, viz:

- John Walsh per ‘Eliza’ to Benjamin Sullivan as Domestic Servant.
- James Jenkins per ‘Surry’ to John Sullivan as Farm Labourer.
- Henry Cohen per ‘Lloyds’ to A. C. Innes as Domestic Servant.

Henry apparently remained assigned to Archibald Innes until granted his Ticket of Leave on 14 February 1840.

One can only speculate as to the duties that Major Innes would have allotted to Henry during that time. Henry was assigned as a ‘domestic servant’ but he was an educated person who would have been capable of performing more valuable services for the Major. The Major lived on his property at Lake Innes, which was six miles from the township. The matter below of Henry’s ‘trousers’ seems to indicate that Henry was living with his family in the township of Port Macquarie (Thomas Brown’s letter to Henry is addressed: ‘Mr Cowan, on the Hill, with a Family, Port Macquarie’). One could speculate about this situation also: Was Henry serving Innes in one of Innes’ businesses in Port Macquarie, or could it have been possible for the Cohens to have come to an arrangement with Innes so that Henry could in effect be ‘free’—at least within the Port Macquarie area?

In any case the ‘large sum’ the family brought with them would have had to be put to work. Henry, of course, was barred from carrying on commercial pursuits or owning property in his own name. In his stead, Elizabeth kept a shop, [///what else? ship, wharf …] and for some years later, after Henry and Elizabeth had removed to Sydney, the eldest son, Samuel Henry, remained active in business in Port Macquarie. By the early 1850s ‘the family’ had two schooners, Elizabeth Cohen4 and Eliza, plying between Sydney and Port Macquarie.

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1. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 34/484 (AONSW: 4/2256.1).
2. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 34/525 (AONSW: 4/2240.2 / Reel 2198).
4. See Koskie, Jack L. Ships That Shaped Australia, pp.61–64, for a description and painting of the schooner Elizabeth Cohen, and also a brief narrative on Henry Cohen. And pp.50–53 for a description and painting of the PS Rose which was a sister ship of the PS Thistle which Henry Cohen apparently owned at a later date.
On 17 March 1834, Henry’s fifth daughter, Frances (Fanny), was born at Port Macquarie. This is an interesting birth date. One would assume that Henry was taken into custody after his arrest on 20 March 1833 and certainly after his conviction on 16 May 1833 and would thereafter not have had any close contact with his wife until after they had all arrived in Port Macquarie. Frances must therefore have been conceived almost on the eve of the Trial (assuming Henry had bail), as the period from the date of conviction to her registered birth date is 10 months! On the other hand, it seems that in those days it was possible for prisoners of means to arrange for more than simply better food—at least while they were being held in a land-based prison.²

In April 1834 Henry and Elizabeth became involved in a police matter when a Ticket-of-Leave man, Thomas Brown, was charged with ‘Making away with property entrusted to his care’—six pairs of trousers given to him for alteration. The Resident Magistrate, Benjamin Sullivan, wrote the Colonial Secretary, enclosing copies of the papers in the matter, requesting the cancellation of Brown’s Ticket of Leave:³

I have the honour to transmit for the purpose of being laid before His Excellency the Governor a copy of Depositions taken before the Bench this Day against the prisoner of the Crown named in the margin [Thomas Brown ‘Royal Admiral’ 1792] holding a Ticket of Leave No. 33/667 with the indulgence of Rations and Slops, and in compliance with the Sentence of the Court, I have to request you will solicit His Excellency to Cancel the Ticket of Leave which was granted to him.

County of Macquarie
To Wit

Thomas Brown
‘Royal Admiral’
Holding Ticket of Leave
No. 33/667 with the indulgence of Rations:

 Territory of New South Wales
Police Office Port Macquarie
12th April 1834

No. 110

Making away with property entrusted to his care.—

Mrs Elizabeth Cohen (Free) having been sworn states, The prisoner at the bar applied to me about three weeks ago to give him a Job, I accordingly gave him Two pairs of Mens Trousers to alter into Boys Trousers, one pair was a Mixture clean and the other White Drill. The prisoner brought them back again when some and I told him they were so badly done that I should not give him any more. He said that as it was the first job if I would overlook it, He would take more care in future. I then gave him Six more pairs of Trousers, One pair of Dark Green Cloth (Boys Trousers), Two pair of White Drill, Two pair of Mixture Merino and One pair of Drab Merino (Men’s Trousers). This took place last Monday week the 31st of March, and he promised to bring them back on the following Thursday, They were given to the prisoner for the purpose of altering them for my Husband and Children. He did not return them on the day he promised. On the following Saturday the 5th Instant I sent one of my Sons to see if they were finished. The prisoner was not at his home but on my husband going to seek for the prisoner on Sunday he discovered that the prisoner had absconded. After my husband had been to the prisoner’s Hut to look for him on the Sunday, a Ticket of Leave Man, named Richard Johnson brought me the letter (copy annexed) which I now produce before the court. I have not seen the prisoner since I delivered the Articles to him until now and I have not seen my property at all since I gave it [to] the prisoner.—

‘Signed’ Elizabeth Cohen

1. (CD version gives birth year as 1835! Check Jewish records)
   Where did Henry spend the time between his conviction and actual transportation?
3. Colonial Secretary, Letters from Port Macquarie, 34/3059 (AONSW: 4/2256.1).
Sworn before us
12th April 1834
‘Signed’ Benj’m Sullivan J.P.
‘Signed’ W. H. Geary J.P.

Henry Cohen Assigned to Archibald Clunes Innes Esq. J.P. having been sworn states, I am the husband of Mrs Elizabeth Cohen and I delivered to the prisoner by direction of my Wife the Six pairs of Trousers to be altered, on the 31st of March last. I pointed out the Alterations required to be made. The prisoner was to have returned them on the following Thursday but I have not seen them since. I went on Sunday the Sixth Inst. to the usual place of residence of the prisoner and learned that he has left there at Day-light in the morning of that day.—

‘Signed’ Henry Cohen

Sworn before us
12th April 1834
‘Signed’ Benj’m Sullivan J.P.
‘Signed’ W. H. Geary J.P.

Davis Pugh a Special Constable having been sworn states, I was sent on Sunday last the 6th Instant in search of the prisoner at the bar by order of the Resident Magistrate from information I received, I pursued him for about 30 Miles on the Markes Tree Line towards the Manning River where I overtook him. The prisoner stated to me on apprehending him, that he had Sold the Articles entrusted to his care by Mrs Cohen, and also some belonging to a prisoner of the Crown named Peter Fenn, to Mrs Fahy for 14 Shillings. I brought him to the Settlement and lodged him in Gaol.—

‘Signed’ Davis Pugh

Sworn before us )
12th April 1834 )
‘Signed’ Benj’m Sullivan J.P.
‘Signed’ W. H. Geary J.P.

Guilty ———————————
Sentence, To be worked in Irons for Six Calendar Months. And recommended that His Excellency the Governor be solicited to deprive him of his Ticket of Leave.—

‘Signed’ Benj’m Sullivan J.P.
‘Signed’ W. H. Geary J.P.

Copy of Letter referred in the preceeding [sic] Deposition
Port Macquarie
April 7th 1834

Mr. Cowan,

I have been 14 years on this Settlement and never such a circumstance happened me before. I am sorry to say but it is too late, that I could have settled with you any thing that was wrong, but I found that I had committed an error and a great one through Liquor. I was resolved never to come before a court after my conduct for that length of time. Farewell Mr Cowan, I have committed my body to a Watery Grave sooner than be discovered.

Farewell for Ever
‘Signed’ Thomas Brown
once a Tailor

Mr Cowan
On 27 July 1836, at Sydney, Henry’s second daughter Sophia married Abraham Cohen. They initially settled in Sydney where Abraham was, from June 1837, a part owner and printer of the *Australian* newspaper. Abraham sold out his interest to his partner, George Robert Nichols, in September 1839, and by October 1840 Abraham and his family were at Port Macquarie. [//refs?]

At least one effort was made to get Henry and family back to Sydney. In August 1836 an attempt was made to ‘con’ the Governor into re-assigning Henry from Archibald Innes to James Simmons, the brother of Henry’s son/brother-in-law Joseph Simmons, in Sydney. The bait was James’ offer to ‘maintain’ Henry’s wife and eleven children.

James Simmons was an emancipist who had been successful in business and had become relatively wealthy and it would have been well appreciated that his offer of maintenance was not an idle one. What the correspondence conveniently ignored was the fact that the Cohen family were themselves relatively wealthy and were not in need of any support.

James Simmons received an Absolute Pardon in 1842. He must have been in receipt of a Conditional Pardon by 1836 otherwise he would not have been entitled to be in business on his own behalf, or, more particularly, to make an application for Henry Cohen as an assigned servant.

On 26 August James Simmons wrote to ‘R[yan] Brenan Esq, Acting Principal Superintendent of Convicts.’

I beg leave to request that Henry Cohen per Ship Lloyds arriving in the year 1833, and now assigned to A. C. Innes Esq J.P. of Port Macquarie may be transferred to me, that Gentleman having given me his consent providing His Excellency the Governor will feel gracefully pleased to allow the Same.

James added the ‘bait’ in a footnote:

The assigned has a Wife and Eleven Children in the Colony whom I will take upon myself to allow a maintenance.

The A.P.S.C.’s annotation on the reverse of the document indicates that he took the bait:

Mr Gallat, [Prepare a] Letter submitting this application & recommendation on Consideration of the applicant undertaking to support prisoner’s wife & children. R.B.

On 9 September Archibald Innes wrote the Acting Principal Superintendent of Convicts, Sydney indicating that he had no objection to Henry’s re-assignment. Why would Innes have had ‘no objection’ to losing the services of an educated assigned servant? Could there possibly have been some consideration involved? What a shame Rex Jackson wasn’t in charge in those days—the application might then have been successful!

Mr. J[ames] Simmons of Sydney being desirous to have the Prisoner named in the Margin [Henry Cohen ‘Lloyds’] transferred from my service to his I have the honour to inform you I have no objection to his being Assigned to Mr. Simmons and I beg leave to state that during the period he has been in my service his conduct has been very good.

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1. George Robert Nichols (1809–1857) was a solicitor who by the 1850s had developed a big police-court practice. His home and office were then at 172 Castlereagh Street. He was solicitor to the City Commissioners, and a Member of the Legislative Council. He was the second son of Isaac Nichols (d.1819), a wealthy emancipist who became Sydney’s first Postmaster, and Rosanna (1787–1837), née Abrahams/Julian, the first daughter of Esther Abrahams/Julian/Johnston (1771–1846), who was born in London’s Newgate Gaol. Nichols has the additional distinction of being the very first Australian-born solicitor. (Levi & Bergman, *Australian Genesis*, pp.19–29.)

2. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 36/6866; 36/8292 (2); all with 36/9001 (AONSW: 4/3679 / Reel 1047; p.223).


4. For the information of non-New South Welshmen, Rex Jackson was a Minister for Prisons in the NSW Government during the 1980s. He eventually went to prison himself for selling early releases to the criminal community.
On 13 October the Acting P.S.C. forwarded to the Colonial Secretary the above two letters, with his recommendation for approval:

I have the honour to transmit for the Commands of the Governor the enclosed letters from Messrs A. C. Innes & James Simmons respecting the application of the latter for the transfer to his service of the Prisoner named in the margin [Henry Cohen per ‘Lloyds’], & I beg to recommend that the request may be complied with on account of the applicant’s undertaking to support Prisoner’s wife & children.

The Colonial Secretary’s annotation thereon indicates a concern for creating a precedent, and the Governor’s annotation indicates that there was confusion with another convict named Cohen at Port Macquarie:

If this be granted other Specials having Families would be claiming the same indulgence. [ColSec’s comment]

I have refused a similar application by the Brother of the Special in question and can not accede to this of Mr Simmons. Oct 15, R[ichard] B[ourke].

The initial application not being successful, the Acting P.S.C. wrote the Colonial Secretary again on 3 November:

With reference to your letter No. 491 of 21st ultimo regarding the application of Mr. James Simmons for the Convict alluded to in the margin [Henry Cohen per ‘Lloyds’] I have the honour to state for the information of the Governor that the Prisoner is not a ‘Special’ but assigned to Major Innes of Port Macquarie and is 56 [sic] years of age.

I beg to add that there is a Prisoner of the name of Cohen also at the settlement as a special, a brother to a Mr Cohen of George Street.

I therefore presume an error has been made as to the man applied for and consequently again submit the letters of Mr. Simmons & Major Innes.

The annotations on this document indicate that the powers-to-be were not fooled by James’ offer of maintenance:

Mr Inches the Surgeon of the Lloyds took a particular interest in this prisoner on account of his Family who came out at the same time in another ship, and represented him as a Tailor, and he was accordingly sent to the Mounted Police but it was found that he was not a tailor. This point turned out to be [unintelligible], he was a Merchant Tailor and is as much a Special as most of the others at Port Macquarie. His wife who was said to have brought a great deal of money with her, keeps a shop at Port Macquarie and is I believe a well conducted woman. [ColSec’s comment]

They had both better remain there. Nov. 6, R.B.

Archibald Innes was married to Margaret, a daughter of the then Colonial Secretary, Alexander Macleay. Politically, Governor Richard Bourke was a Whig (liberal) and Macleay was a Tory (conservative) which by this time had resulted in a strained relationship between the two. Had Macleay been able to maintain a working relationship with Governor Bourke, Henry might have been successful in this bid to get back to ‘civilisation’ in Sydney. Macleay was forced to resign prematurely on 2 January of the following year (1837), and Archibald Innes and Macleay’s two sons, in sympathy, resigned their magistracies.

The General Return [Muster] of Convicts in New South Wales for 1837, lists Henry as: No. 5031; Age: 48; Ship: Lloyds; Year: 1830 [sic]; Master: Innes, A. C.; District: Port Macquarie.

Henry’s sixth daughter and last child, Jane, was born at Port Macquarie, 19 April 1837.

On 17 August 1837 Major Innes applied to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts for permission for Henry to travel to Sydney for fourteen days. The P.S.C. in turn referred the application to the Colonial Secretary on 22 August:

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2. AONSW: Reel 71.
3. Lloyds was built in 1830. Henry arrived in 1833.
4. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 37/7834 (AONSW: ???)

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I have the honour to submit the enclosed application from Major Innes that his assigned servant the Convict named in the margin [Henry Cohen per ‘Lloyds’, A Special] may be allowed to pass from Port Macquarie for fourteen days.

This document is annotated on the reverse: ‘Allowed / August 31.’ What was this trip for? The ‘enclosed application from Major Innes’, which undoubtedly would have given a reason for the trip, would have been returned to the P.S.C. Unfortunately, P.S.C. records of this type have not survived.

In November 1839 Archibald Innes’ niece, Annabella Innes, travelled from Port Macquarie to Sydney on the *Elizabeth Cohen* and described the journey in her *Journal*:¹

I quite well remember our return voyage to Sydney in November 1839. It was a tiny sailing vessel called the *Elizabeth Cohen*, crowded with passengers, and sick and miserable we all were. … The steward was a very superior man and was very attentive to us; he was in fact, part owner of the schooner, and when we arrived in Sydney late on Sunday evening, and no one came to meet us, he insisted on our going to his house for the night, and his nice pretty little wife made us very comfortable.²

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¹ Annabella Boswell’s *Journal*, Angus & Robertson, 1965, pp.32–33.
² Who was the steward? It cannot be one of the Cohen boys as none of them were then married.
The Cohen family became well known traders in the district, with a store in Horton Street (now the Commonwealth Bank building), and their own vessel, the Elizabeth Cohen, which carried goods and passengers between Sydney and Port Macquarie.1

Koskie states that Henry ‘apparently earned the admiration of the Governor [sic], who owned a property some kilometres away from the gaol. He was allowed to take the bullock cart to town for stores and became the station’s bookkeeper.’2

Koskie further states ‘Henry established a wholesale grocery firm in George Street, Sydney, and to serve the interests of the north coast pioneers became one of the first shareholders of the North Coast Steamship Company. Messrs Cohen and Company thrived.’

Undated ==--------------------------------------------------------
E[liza[beth?]dward] & S[amuel] Cohen carrying on business. [/[/ref?]
1840–45 ==--------------------------------------------------------

Henry was granted his Ticket of Leave on 14 February 1840. A qualified free man he was now able to take literal control of his assets—at least in Port Macquarie.

Abraham Cohen was the licensee of the ‘Speed the Plough’ inn on the corner of William and Horton Streets during the 1840s.3

‘The list of insolvencies for the year 1842 demonstrates the extent of the damage done to the little Jewish community of New South Wales. The Jews on the list were, … in April, Samuel Henry Cohen, … Solomon Marks, …

‘By the end of 1844 it was all over and the country breathed again. Most of the merchants had obtained their discharge from the Insolvency Court and were able to start afresh. Many of the old and well-established emancipists, like … James Simmons, had proved tough enough to survive … wanted to purchase tallow and hides at his ‘City Mart’.

1846–50 ==--------------------------------------------------------

‘… In 1848 the Jews mustered strongly enough to put up their own candidate for the municipal elections and in November the old emancipist James Simmons was duly elected to the Sydney Municipal Council.

‘… The 1849 list of colonial shipowners mentions four Jews … Henry Cohen owned the steamer Thistle’4

1. Port Macquarie—A History to 1850, p.103.
2. Koskie, Jack L. Ships That Shaped Australia. Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1987. p.62. Koskie here refers to the ‘Governor.’ I suspect that he means to refer to Archibald Innes, who had some years earlier been the ‘Commandant’ of the penal settlement at Port Macquarie, and to whom Henry was assigned.
3. Port Macquarie—A History to 1850, p.103.
1839: ///ToL Application\(^1\)…???

On 14 February 1840 Henry was granted Ticket of Leave\(^2\) No. 40/356, which was endorsed, ‘Allowed to remain in the District of Port Macquarie.’

(By Government Order, January 1827, ‘Prisoners transported for any of the following periods, will be considered eligible to hold a Ticket of Leave, under the stipulations hereafter specified; viz … Transported for 14 years having served 6 years with 1, and 8 years with 2, or 10 years with 3 masters …’\(^3\) A Ticket of Leave was a permission to the individual to employ himself for his own benefit and to acquire property, on condition of residing within the District therein specified. But he was not allowed to remove into another District without the express sanction of the Government, entered on the face of his Ticket.)

1840: Conditional Pardon: Application\(^4\) 9 Dec. 1840. [[]/docs?]

On 24 February 1841 an application by Henry Cohen for a Conditional Pardon was refused:\(^5\)

The Governor regrets that he can see no reasons for departing from the regulations of government in this case and that he cannot therefore recommend him for a Conditional Pardon.

///?1841–42: Conditional Pardon: Another application. [[]/document?]

The list of ‘Recommendations for Conditional Pardons’, 1 July 1842,\(^6\) indicates that this time Henry’s application was successful. His Conditional Pardon had been recommended by: ‘[Captain] W. Gray, R.M. [Harbourmaster at Port Macquarie]; [Major] A. C. Innes; [Captain] W. H. Geary, J.P.; [Dr.] W. B. Carlyle, J.P.; P. Ditman [Ditmas?], J.P.; [the Reverend John] Cross.’ Clearly, these refe-

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4. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received, 40/12450. [not yet found!]
6. Colonial Secretary, Recommendations for Conditional Pardons, 1 July 1842 (AONSW: 4/4478 / Reel 797; folio 197).
ree were some of the most prominent people in Port Macquarie. Henry subsequently received his Conditional Pardon No. 43/183, dated 8 August 1843. An annotation on the ToL Butt indicates that the Pardon was actually granted by the Governor on ‘28 April 1842.’

A Conditional Pardon was granted by the Governor and approved by the Secretary of State in London, on condition of residing in the territory, as Free. The Governor signed the pardon prior to receiving the approval of the Secretary of State. The Governor certified that he had received this approval before the Pardon was issued and registered.

In 1845 *Henry* and *Elizabeth* removed to Sydney. [ref?] It would appear that at that time Samuel Henry Cohen remained in, and that Lewis Cohen, as he would have then been only 14 years of age, may have stayed at or at some time later returned to, Port Macquarie as they are both regularly mentioned in Robert Heath Hall’s 1851–52 Diary. Following are some extracts therefrom which mention the Cohens, and others which give some indication of the times in Port Macquarie:

**MON. 1 OCT. [1851]** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ tried to get out but could not; in returning got on North Spit and stuck till 2.30 p.m. when returned to the wharf.

**SUN. 5 OCT.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ still detained by foul wind and heavy Bar.

**TUES. 7 OCT.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ still detained by heavy Bar—she tried to get out this morning but failed.

**WED. 8 OCT.** The Schooner full of passengers sailed for Sydney 7.30 a.m.

**MON. 20 OCT.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ from Sydney—Passengers: Kinsilla, Old Mr McDonough, Marian Evans, and Cohen’s children.

**FRI. 24 OCT.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ to Sydney 11 a.m. She went out at sunrise.

**TUES. 28 OCT.** … to Greens to make up Promissory Notes to Cohen. …

**MON. 3 NOV.** The [unintelligible] called in the offing this morning. The Captain and Mate of her came on shore to ask Cohen for freight, got none.

**THURS. 13 NOV.** A vessel at the heads, thought to be the ‘Elizabeth Cohen’.

**FRI. 14 NOV.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ arrived from Sydney in the night … also another schooner in the offing, which came to anchor last night. It is said she is from California and Moreton Bay and wants supplies. … The schooner lying at the Bar very suspicious and rakish—Mounts 10 guns and a large traversing gun—besides many swivels. The captain of her, they say, was murdered at one of the Islands. Three whites were ashore but I did not see them. Rough looking fellows with long beards. I hear from Kinsella that the vessel is called the ‘Wanderer.’

**SAT. 15 NOV.** The ‘Wanderer’, endeavouring to get in, ran ashore at Gaol Point, and became a wreck—I was there all the afternoon—rendering what assistance I could—All the boats got stove.

**SUN. 16 NOV.** At 3 a.m. went to the wreck—all the people were ashore, asleep under sails. … I believe everyone in the Settlement for miles around has visited the wreck this afternoon.

**WED. 26 NOV.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ was searched by the Police and a variety of property found on board her stolen from the ‘Wanderer.’

**FRI. 28 NOV.** The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ got under weigh, all passengers on board. … All the men on board Cohen’s vessel drunk; they were up in the rigging abusing me and Green before all the people congregated on the wharf. They called out, ‘Old Hall. Bloody Old Hall, the Hangman.’ … I replied to them at the top of my voice, ‘Go on, you Bloody Thieves.’ … I explained to the standers by the reason of their conduct, that they accused me of giving the information that led to the searching of the vessel on Wednesday. I appealed to Captain Ottiwell and Mr. Webster before two Cohens and about 50 others that were standing by.

**SUN. 30 NOV.** The two vessels ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ and ‘Primus’ sailed for Sydney 10 a.m. with foul wind.

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2. Robert Heath Hall’s Diary, Mitchell Library, ML MSS 644 / Reel CY2959, frames 104–208. At the time of writing the Diary Hall was a ToL man at Port Macquarie (per *Asia* to VDL 1827; ToL 38/1661; per *Lord William Bentinck* to NSW 1838; C.P. 1852). He was in the government employ as a ‘writer’ preparing the local returns for the Colonial Secretary, etc; he also prepared documents and accounts and wrote (and read) letters, etc, for those in the area (including those in business) who could not do so themselves. His diary covers the period 25 September 1851 to 27 October 1852.
3. This was a famous yacht owned by Mr. Benjamin Boyd, who came to Sydney about 1840 with a large amount of English capital. His yacht was a beautiful-looking Admiralty vessel, mounted with guns, etc., and had been on active service. It came into Boyd’s possession through the Royal Yacht Squadron, of which he was an active member. He decided to develop large tracts of country along the south coast, laid out ‘Boyd-town’ which is situated at Twofold Bay on the opposite side to Eden; started cattle-runs, whaling, boiling-down works, etc., also a lighthouse. He carried all these schemes out with such extravagance that he lost everything. He traded in black labour among the islands, and it was on a return journey from San Francisco that Boyd was murdered.
MON. 1 DEC. The Johnsons arrived from the country with news that they have found gold in this Dis-

trict—I saw the gold dust in possession of Sam Cohen at Green’s.

MON. 8 DEC. Sam Cohen, Major Innes, Capt Webster, Jimmy Scott, A. Thomson, C. Wilkins, McInherny,
Spencer, Mr I. Dick and many others to the Gold Field early this morning.

WED. 10 DEC. Rifle shooting matches on the Green this afternoon by L. Cohen, Captain Attawell and Mr
Crawford.

THURS. 18 DEC. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ and ‘Primus’ from Sydney at daylight.

MON. 22 DEC. Partridge’s premises sold to Kinsela this day for £130.

SAT. 27 DEC. The ‘Wanderer’ became a complete wreck last night. Her bottom fell to pieces. … Races up
at the Plains. The Mate of the ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ gone there with Ann Doyle.

TUES. 30 DEC. At daylight walked to the wreck. It was sold by auction at 10 a.m. By hocus-pocus work it
got into the hands of Sam Cohen, the Auctioneer, for a mere trifle.

WED. 31 DEC. The Wanderer’s six or seven brass guns fired at midnight, gongs beating and bells ringing
about the streets all night, the town in a complete uproar till 4 a.m. the morning of 1 January.

FRI. 2 JAN. 1852. Walked to the Wreck, Sam Cohen spoke to me.

FRI. 16 JAN. The Scoundrel L. Cohen I am informed was the principal against me with the Doyles.

MON. 2 FEB. Heard from Mr Killion that Mr [unintelligible] in Sydney had got a situation of £5 per week
and has sent down to Jane Warlter, wanting to marry her.

SAT. 7 FEB. ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ came to anchor at the heads.

TUES. 10 FEB. I believe there is a party of young folks at Warlter’s this evening, to take leave of Miss
Jane who is going to Sydney on Thursday Morning by the ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ there to remain to learn a
trade I hear. … The Party at Warlter’s consists of: Elizabeth Doyle, Ann Doyle, Alice Blair, Lewis
Cohen, a Jew friend of L. Cohen’s from N. England, Cohen the shopman, whom the girls call
Spooney. …

THURS. 19 FEB. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ under weigh for Sydney.

TUES. 24 FEB. Wrote letter to Dillon for Jenny Seymour; 2/6.

WED. 25 FEB. Heard from Green that Joe Francis is to be down the vessel after next to marry Betsy
Doyle. … Abused Lewy Cohen to Murphy for setting the Doyles against me.

MON. 1 MAR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ from Sydney.

FRI. 5 MAR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ was to have sailed this morning, wind foul, she could not get out.

MON. 6 MAR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ tried to get out this morning but could not.

SUN. 7 MAR. Called at Mrs Green’s, found there an invitation in writing for me to attend Mrs Farrell’s fu-
neral at 4 p.m. this day. … The funeral numerous and most respectably attended. Mr Halloran and
all family, Mr Drake and family, Mr Sam Cohen, Morton Litchfield, in fact every body was there but
Lewy Cohen.

WED. 10 MAR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ to Sydney this morning.

TUES. 16 MAR. Mrs Lewis’ sale by Mr Sam Cohen.

THURS. 18 MAR. Mrs Lewis called at my door 9 a.m. and wanted me to go to her house to examine
Cohen’s a/c, of course, I refused to do so.

WED. 31 MAR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ in the offing. Landed from her Rase and family. She then was put
to sea again. The E[Elizabeth Doyle]’s not in her, thank God!

MON. 5 APR. The ‘Hannah’ and ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ tried to get out but obliged to return. Capt Williams in-
sulted by three of the Elizabeth Cohen’s men.

WED. 7 APR. The ‘Hannah’ and ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ both sailed for Sydney 10 a.m.

THURS. 8 APR. The ‘Primus’ sailed for Sydney 9 o’clock this morning loaded with Cohen’s cedar.

SAT. 17 APR. Mrs K[illion] and Sam Cohen at war about his ship going on her pathway.

WED. 28 APR. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ from Sydney. Passengers: Mr Lewis Cohen.

SUN. 2 MAY. I hear from Mr Greene Mate of the ‘Hannah’ that there has been great racing on the course
this afternoon, with John Doyle, Alexander and James Blair, Lewis Cohen, Mick Doran, &c &c.

TUES. 4 MAY. Called at Sandy Blair’s to see the ‘Wanderer’ pianoforte which he bought today from
Cohen for 15/0. … The ‘Hannah’ and ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ tried again to get out this morning, but were
obliged to return to their moorings.

WED. 5 MAY. The two vessels still detained by foul wind.

MON. 10 MAY. Heard from Mrs K[illion] that Mrs D[oyle] told Mrs Francis that she should not let E.D.
marry for some months. And the reason is she has hope that Lewis Cohen will marry Betsy.
THURS. 13 MAY. The ‘Hannah’ got out with difficulty, grounding in the S. Channel, then by a most masterly manoeuvre tacked on the Bar and took the North Channel through which she passed in safety.

TUES. 18 MAY. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ still detained by the Heavy Bar and fresh in the River. This is the sixteenth day she has been detained.

SAT. 29 MAY. Mr Blair Snr found drowned today by his son James near the bridge leading to his home. He was drunk last evening at Killion’s and borrowed 2/0 from Mrs Killion to pay Doyle’s Man for a Stock Whip, and remained drinking at Doyle’s. It is supposed he fell into the creek at 9 or 10 o’clock last night going home. … The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ got over the Bar at 4 p.m.—4.30 I went to the Boat Harbour. Rev. Mr O’Reilly and all the Elite there. No Boatman till sunset. Then Chas Jackson and Branch arrived. The Boat manned by them and Mr Halloran and Mr Sutton and ‘Wanderers’ Black Harry. Passengers taken off in the Boat: Mrs Halloran and Baby, Mr Sam Cohen and Daughter and some others. Many others waiting to go on board.

SUN. 30 MAY. The other passengers Mrs McNerny & Daughter, a prisoner from the Gaol, [unintelligible], &c went on the ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ early this morning, when she sailed to Sydney. … After church called at Phillip’s and had glass of ale, 3d. … 5 p.m. The ‘Pompey’ came in but is on shore on the flats (8 p.m. There she sticks).

SUN. 31 MAY. The schooner ‘Pompey’ got off the sand spit this evening & gone to the wharf.

SUN. 6 MAY. The Rev. Mr Currie preached at the Chapel this afternoon, and was to have preached again this evening but the street being in such a wet and muddy condition as to prevent the people from attending …

FRI. 11 JUN. Called at G. Bazil’s. He says some days ago he said to Maggy Francis, ‘I suppose Joe will be down on the next vessel to marry Betsy Doyle’. He says she replied, ‘Indeed he is not coming to marry Betsy Doyle.’ He says the Francis’ are not now intimate at Doyle’s. He supposes that they have some thing going on between Lewy Cohen and Betsy, or some of the sailors and her. He (George) says he himself has seen Betsy sitting on the sofa in the parlour and Lewy Cohen lying on it with his head resting on Betsy’s lap … and he saw Spookey taking very improper liberties with her, and he has seen her and the sailors courting together frequently at the back door, of a night. Is all this possible? If it is, how grievously have I been deceived with respect to this girl’s character. But what else can be expected in such an infamous house as that kept by Mrs Doyle!

WED. 16 JUN. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ from Sydney at daylight. She came to wharf 9 a.m. Passengers: Joe Francis, John Francis, Riley the butcher, young Woodland with £400, and others. … Margaret Doyle, Mrs Francis and Maggy were at the vessel, and walked up with Joe. O what a happy young man is this to possess the affections, and shortly to have for his wife, such a sweet, good girl as Elizabeth Doyle!

SAT. 19 JUN. At daylight the ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ moved down to the Bar but could not get out—no wind.

SUN. 20 JUN. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ went out at 8 a.m. and sailed to Sydney about 9.30.

MON. 21 JUN. 8.30 a.m. To Green’s to breakfast. Writing there till 10.30 to Sam Cohen and Hy Cohen. Included money for Mr Green’s license.

SUN. 27 JUN. 5.15 p.m. Called at Green’s but came home directly, their house in a complete state of drunken uproar. … I am sorry to see Green’s house becoming the resort of whores and blackguards, but I knew such would be the case when I found he has got the Pony’s girl as a servant, and that blackguard McDade in the house.

WED. 30 JUN. Cohen’s new schooner the ‘Eliza’1 arrived from Sydney last night which she left only on Monday the 28th. Mrs Sam Cohen by her, landed last night. … Been dreadful wrecks on the coast. Among the vessels lost: ‘Rose of Eden’, ‘Pompey’, and a vessel of 4[00] or 500 tons. … The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ was just up at Sydney when the squall came on and entered Port Jackson with her foresail blown to ribbons. … The McLeay is quite empty of its inhabitants, they have all gone to the Diggings. … Sam Cohen brought down Green’s License

FRI. 2 JUL. 4.30 p.m. The ‘Eliza’, Capt Pike, came over the bar.

SAT. 3 JUL. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ arrived from Sydney. … Passengers: two Miss Blairs.

SUN. 4 JUL. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ sailed to the wharf at 10 a.m.

TUES. 6 JUL. [P. Murphy] informed me (confidentially) that Doyle’s House is all in an uproar. Mr Sutton, 42 years old, has proposed for Betsy and she is inclined to cast off Francis and marry Sutton, and that Mrs D sticks to poor Joe, that it is however fixed that they shall be married this day six weeks.

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1. Eliza presumably was named after Samuel Cohen’s wife, whereas the Elizabeth Cohen was obviously named after his mother and it is probable that that schooner (if not both) was beneficially owned by Henry Cohen.
Mrs D did not intend to give her consent till Betsy was 19, but has altered her mind. She is now 18. This about, Sutton is Mother Phillip’s doing.

THURS. 8 JUL. 12 a.m. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ went out and sailed for Sydney.

SAT. 10 JUL. The ‘Eliza’ sailed for Sydney about 11 o’clock a.m. Towed out by blackfellows and then the Boat went snappering. … Heard from P. Murphy that it is settled that Joe Francis is to marry Betsy Doyle, but he says Sutton always sticks close to her, and he thinks she prefers Sutton to Joe …

MON. 12 JUL. To Cohen’s for ½lb Tea 9d, 4lb Sugar 1/4. Total today 2/7.

TUES. 20 JUL. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ arrived from Sydney at sunrise. Passengers: Mrs and Susan Halloran, Miss Jane Warlters, George Spain, young Byrnes. … Captain Easton with his crew has gone to the ‘Eliza’ and Pike now commands the ‘Elizabeth Cohen.’

WED. 21 JUL. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ came over the Bar and to the wharf 10 a.m.

THURS. 22 JUL. The ‘Eliza’ from Sydney 12 a.m. Came to the wharf. Passengers: Mrs Morecroft.

FRI. 23 JUL. Geo. says he doesn’t think Betsy Will marry Joe Francis … from K, that he thinks Sutton is to have Elizabeth Doyle.

SAT. 24 JUL. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ went out 11 a.m. Passengers: Alex Blair, Maxwell Thomson. Still at the heads at anchor, foul wind till 4 p.m., then sailed to Sydney.

THURS. 29 JUL. Mr Killion called at 1 p.m. for me to examine Gibbon’s a/c to him.

FRI. 30 JUL. Killion told me that Sutton has got the Venereal Disease, or is only recovering from it, a pretty blackguard to be after the lovely Betsy Doyle … The schooner ‘Eliza’ sailed for Sydney at 7 o’clock this morning.

SAT. 31 JUL. Called at Tozer’s, Cohen’s, Basil’s and Killion’s. Expended: Oranges at Basil’s 3d, Tea and Sugar at Cohen’s 2/1. Total 2/4.

WED. 4 AUG. Killion came up drunk to acquaint me that Mrs Doyle had desired him to give me the word as follows ‘She understood that I was ill and dying in love with her daughter Betsy Doyle. That Betsy was going to be married to Joe Francis’ … Wrote to Mrs Doyle a letter and sent it by Old White telling her she was mistaken as to the cause of my being ill, that I was not in love with her daughter, but had got an inflammation of the chest through bathing, that I was attached to E.D. when she lived at Phillip’s, but marriage never entered my head … that I was glad to hear she was going to marry Joe and not Lewis Cohen or Henry Sutton …

WED. 11 AUG. Mary Ann came for me to make out Clarence Brigg’s and W. Durant’s Bill. Went to the Hotel and did it.

THURS. 5 SEP. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ from Sydney 9.30 p.m. Passengers: young Woodland, Mrs and Miss Caswell. She left 2 p.m. yesterday, 26 hours. Steamer arrived direct from England in two months.

TUES. 10 AUG. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ to Sydney 12 a.m. … Been all day seriously thinking of immediately resigning my situation and walking the line to Sydney.

SAT. 21 AUG. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ at the Heads, but Bar too rough to communicate with her. … The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ is not in sight (5 p.m.) the current appears to have drifted her away to the southward.

WED. 25 AUG. The ‘Eliza’ to Sydney this morning. Passengers: Mrs Samuel Cohen and I believe others. … The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ came in this afternoon. Charley the Mate brought his new wife to Green’s to live there during his stays.

THURS. 26 AUG. Dined [at Green’s]. Lewy Cohen and Sam there playing tricks with Burnett and Crawley—both drunk. Glass ale with Sam Cohen …

SUN. 5 SEP. The ‘Elizabeth Cohen’ went out with a strong NNE wind (which was never done before) and sailed to Sydney. Sam Cohen spoke to me.

TUES. 7 SEP. from 12.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Round the rocks and beaches to Tacking Point. Mr L. Cohen and Peter Murphy came out there on horseback.

WED. 8 SEP. Elizabeth Doyle married at the English Church to Joseph Francis by Mr Cross.

THURS. 9 SEP. The ‘Eliza’ arrived from Sydney which she left 3 p.m. yesterday. Passengers: Captain Geary, Horatio Tozer, Mr Jobling, Skerrett, Miss Fattorine, Dr Fattorine.
SAT. 11 SEP. Tozer selling his furniture by Auction today; Sam Cohen Auctioneer—This did not take place I hear from Killion.

TUES. 14 SEP. The Gearys going by the vessel tomorrow, all their furniture put on board this morning, and Tozers also. So P.M. will lose two of its most respectable families.

THURS. 16 SEP. The ‘Eliza’ sailed to Sydney from the wharf, all passengers on board, Captain Geary, Mrs Geary and family.

FRI. 17 SEP. The ‘Hannah’ called in the offing for Mr Tozer and family.

MON. 20 SEP. Wrote letter to Colonial Secretary resigning my situation, posted it. … Talking to old Simon who told me Green had got Fearly doing his writing.

SUN. 3 OCT. The ‘Eliza’ arrived in the offing from Sydney at daylight. Passengers landed at Boat Harbour 7 a.m., Mr Samuel Cohen, Alex Blair, Mr Cameron.

MON. 4 OCT. The ‘Eliza’ still at the heads, no wind.

TUES. 5 OCT. The ‘Eliza’ came over the Bar 1.30 p.m.

THURS. 7 OCT. 5.45 p.m. on rocks under the Windmill. The Misses Scott there. I think they had been bathing. Of course I passed without looking at them.

SUN. 10 OCT. 2.30 p.m. The ‘Eliza’ sailed for Sydney with foul wind from the South fresh. Passengers: Old John Gardiner to Poor House, George Wightman the madman from the Hospital to Tarban Creek, Constable Hamilton and three Prisoners from the Gaol, Lanky Lloyd, The three Young Woodlands to Port Phillip …

The Port Macquarie Historical Society (previously Hastings District Historical Society) museum at Port Macquarie has, since 1959, been housed in one of the town’s few remaining historic buildings—built circa 1835—at 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie. The museum has a display of contemporary retail shops, one of which displays the banner ‘E & S Cohen’ (that is, E[lizabeth?] & Samuel), and, Henry Cohen apparently was the second owner of this property. It is a somewhat strange experience to walk through this now restored building knowing that Henry and some of the family actually lived there 150 years ago. Possibly this is the building in which Elizabeth kept her original shop.

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1. The ‘E’ of ‘E & S Cohen’ could be for either Elizabeth (Samuel’s mother) or Edward (the next oldest son) or Eliza (Samuel’s wife); most probably for Elizabeth, for if otherwise surely it would have been expressed as ‘S & E Cohen.’ Or, should it indeed be ‘S & E Cohen’ (Samuel & Edward?) as is noticed in the *Australian* 10 April 1841.
The schooner Elizabeth Cohen left the Manning River for Sydney late in October [1857], was sighted off Broken Bay NSW two days later, then disappeared without trace. She was a vessel of 43 tons, built at the Manning River in 1850 [sic].

The following text is extracted from a paper read before the AJHS 30 June 1952, and published in AJHS Journal, Vol. 3, Pt. 8, March 1953:

**Early Jewish Settlers in Port Macquarie**

By Sidney Schultz

‘The Australian of 3rd March 1835 records the arrival in the colony on 27th February on an A. Cohen in the ship Warrior. On 13th February 1841 in the Australian, reference is made to A. Cohen, ‘Manager and Secretary of the Port Macquarie Steam Navigation Co.’ A. Cohen, Port Macquarie, somewhat later [in the Australian 24 May 1844], is referred to as one of the executors of the late Joseph Allen.

‘The Sydney Morning Herald of 6th October 1842 mentions Mrs A. Cohen [Henry’s daughter, Sophia], a passenger per s.s. Maitland from Port Macquarie. A. Cohen is mentioned as a passenger from Port Macquarie, also in the s.s. Maitland, in the issues for 12th July 1843 and 23rd August 1844.

‘Henry Cohen was a storekeeper at Port Macquarie, according to the Sydney Morning Herald of 7th October 1844 and was a passenger on s.s. Maitland, reported in the Sydney Morning Herald 9th December 1844. [//Is this part of the move to Sydney?]

‘The Australian, 29th May 1838, notes S. H. Cohen as a commission agent in Hunter Street, Sydney. [Henry’s son, Samuel Henry, would have been only 19 years old in 1838 but it’s probable that the eldest son’s name would have been used for business purposes as Henry didn’t get his ToL until February 1840.] A number of issues of the Australian in the ‘forties refer to his[?] business at Campbelltown. In 1841 he appears to have moved to Port Macquarie.

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1. Loney. *Australian Shipwrecks*, p.90 (His sources: Loney, NSW Nth Coast 32; Bateson, Cards; Syd Reg No 36/1850). But note that mention of the schooner Elizabeth Cohen in Annabella Boswell’s Journal indicates she was built prior to 1839.
‘The *Australian* for 10th April 1841, mentions S. & E. Cohen [Samuel and Edward], auctioneers and commission agents, Port Macquarie. The issue for 10th July 1841 notes land at Port Macquarie for sale by S. H. Cohen. A notice in the *Australian*, 22nd February 1842, states that the insolvent estate of S. H. Cohen was surrendered on 15th February, and the issue for 7th June states that land at Port Macquarie, Mudgee and Scone in the insolvent estate of S. H. Cohen would be sold on 10th June. Henry Cohen was appointed trustee for the estate of S. H. Cohen. [What an interesting situation: Henry being appointed trustee for assets which were most probably beneficially his! Ed.]

‘The Registrar-General has kindly supplied an extract from the Register of Births at Port Macquarie as follows:

Frances (daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Cohen), born 17th March 1834; named 21st January 1835;
Jane (parents as above), born 19th April 1837;
Agnes (daughter of Samuel Cohen), named 9th June 1849;
Rose (daughter of Samuel and Eliza Cohen), named 1st June 1851.

‘A well-preserved gravestone in the old burial ground at the southern end of Horton Street, Port Macquarie, reads:

IN MEMORY OF
ROSA
ELDEST DAUGHTER OF
ABRAHAM AND SOPHIA COHEN
DIED OCT. 29TH A.M. 5601 (1840)
AGED 3 YEARS 4 MONTHS AND 14 DAYS.

‘In the Register of Births, the following are recorded as being the children of Abraham and Sophia Cohen:

Rosa, born Sydney, 27th July 1836;
Rosa, born Sydney, 12th June 1837; named 8th July 1837;
Male child [Frederick], born Sydney, circumcised 12th August 1838;
Fanny, born Sydney, 22nd July 1839;
Henry Emanuel and George (twins), born Sydney [*sic*], 1st September 1840;
Nathan, born Port Macquarie, 10th July 1842;
Caroline, born Port Macquarie, 2nd March 1844;
Hannah, born Port Macquarie, 1st July 1845;
Sarah, born Port Macquarie, 1st July 1847; named 21st August 1847;
Child [Jane (Jenny)] (name and sex not recorded), born Castlereagh Street, Sydney; named 5th January 1850;
Miriam, born Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 27th February 1852.

‘The male child whose name is not stated was presumably Frederick Cohen, while the younger child whose name and sex are not given was Jenny, later wife of Benjamin F. Marks of Sydney. She died in 1930. Fanny married Sir Benjamin Benjamin of Melbourne, and died in 1912. Caroline married Solomon Joseph of Tamworth, who is referred to in the last issue of the Society’s *Journal*, as is George, one of the twins born in 1840. Hannah married Elias Samuels, and while Miriam married Philip Benjamin, a communal figure of some importance in Sydney in the earlier part of this century, Sarah died unmarried. Of the sons, the two most distinguished were Henry Emanuel and Nathan. The former became a Cabinet Minister and a Judge of the Supreme Court. A paper has already been devoted to him in this Society’s *Journal*, and I therefore say no more of him. Nathan Cohen became an important figure in Tamworth. His activities there have also been recently sketched for the Society in two papers.

‘The elder Rosa probably died at birth, as the date on the [younger Rosa’s] gravestone tallies exactly with the date of birth of their second child, also named Rosa. She died about a month before [*sic*] the twins, Henry Emanuel and George, were born. …

‘In the Shipping Gazette of 6th December 1851, p.354, the following account of the [*Wanderer*] wreck appears:
On Thursday, the 13th ultimo, Mr. B. Boyd’s yacht, the *Wanderer*, anchored off the bar at Port Macquarie, and on the following morning a boat belonging to Messrs. Cohen and Co. put off to her to ascertain if any communication was required with the shore. The crew found her in a disabled state, her mainmast and foremast both sprung above the deck, as well as her jib-boom. They reported that Mr. Boyd had been killed by natives, and they expressed a wish to enter Port Macquarie in order to get her repaired …

Mr. Easton, Master of the *Elizabeth Cohen*, advised that on account of her draught of water she should not come in; but subsequently went off with his crew to assist. The yacht was lightened … and they stood in the bar … Just on the bar, the breeze suddenly abated, and the keel of the vessel gently struck, and a strong flood-tide carried her to the south shore where … she stranded. Messrs. Cohen’s bar-boat was stove in, but they sent out their tug-boat, and at ebb-tide all the movables that it was possible to secure were got out and conveyed to Messrs. Cohen and Co. Store.

Further research/reading:
Find the documents for the c.1840 case against Edward and Philip Cohen and Joseph Simmons, for an assault on a tailor, Lewis Cohen (no relation), whom Joseph Simmons had then recently sued.
Who owned the schooner *Hannah*?
Prisoners to Port Macquarie (AONSW 4/3897, p.418) [?]
Surveyors Correspondence (AONSW 2/7839) [?]
SMH 24.2.1845 [?]

Return to Sydney
Henry and Elizabeth removed to Sydney in 1845. [//ref]

Low’s Directory of the City & District of Sydney 1847, lists ‘Henry Cohen & Co., Wholesale Dealers, George & Hunter Sts’ and ‘?Samuel Cohen, 66 Hunter Street.’

N.S.W. Almanac & Remembrancer 1848, lists ‘Abraham Cohen, Commission Agent, Cleveland Cottage, Castlereagh St. S.’ and ‘Asher Hart, Commission Agent, 217 Castlereagh St. S.’


In 1848 Joseph Fowles published *Sydney in 1848*¹ a book containing descriptions and drawings of streetscapes of the major streets in Sydney Town. Opposite page 21 is a streetscape showing the premises of ‘H. Cohen & Son’ on the eastern side of George Street between Robin Hood Lane (which disappeared with the Australia Square development) and Hunter Street. This was then directly opposite the Margaret Street of today which at that time did not extend down to George Street. Even though the troops had moved to the new Paddington barracks in 1847, the buildings and the ‘square’ of the old barracks still occupied the area between Clarence Street and the western alignment of George Street, from Barrack Street to the now northern alignment of Margaret Street.

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¹. Fowles, Joseph. *Sydney in 1848*. (Facsimile reprint 1962)
Other names of interest which appear in Fowles' streetscapes are ‘S. Solomon, Auctioneers &c’ and ‘Jas. Simmons & Son’ both on the southern side of Hunter Street, between Pitt and George Streets.

On 14 July 1849 Henry Cohen of Sydney purchased three town land lots at Armidale, NSW. On the same day Philip Cohen, then of Armidale, purchased one town land lot, and on the following day purchased one suburban land lot.

///Lloyd’s Register of Shipping (incl List of Shipowners): (M.L. Q656.5/L) ???
The 1849 List of Colonial Shipowners mentions Henry Cohen as owner of the steamship Thistle. [[/ref?]]

Henry Cohen is listed in the 1851 edition of the Sydney Directory (p.29) as ‘Cohen, Henry, merchant and shipowner, 325 Castlereagh Street north.’ We can be reasonably sure that this is our Henry as his daughter Nancy’s death notice in the Sydney Morning Herald, 3 April 1860, describes her as ‘… eldest daughter of Mr Henry Cohen of Castlereagh Street, Sydney.’ Some time after 1860 Henry and Elizabeth removed to Margaret Street, overlooking the not long before created Wynyard Square.

The old military barracks at Wynyard, which occupied the area bounded by George, Barrack, Clarence and (the northern alignment of) Margaret Streets, were demolished and the area subdivided and sold between 1850 and 1853. At the same time York Street was extended from Barrack Street to the north to Margaret Street, Wynyard and Carrington Streets were defined, and the portion in the middle was converted into the Wynyard Square we know today. Margaret Street was also to be extended eastward from Clarence Street to George Street.

Smith and Hinton’s ‘Map of Sydney and Suburbs 1854’ indicates that in that year Margaret Street as we now know it was still not extended down to George Street. At that time Margaret Street ran from Sussex Street to York Street, and then, from near Carrington Street to George Street it was called Margaret Place, in between, an existing building intruded and blocked vehicular access between the two ‘Margarets.’ By 1858 the intruding building had been demolished and Margaret Street became as we know it today.

Elizabeth Cohen died on 13 February 1866, at 74 years of age, at Margaret Street, Sydney and was buried at the Devonshire Street Burial Ground. The witnesses to the burial were A. A. Levi and John Solomon. The Sydney Morning Herald of 14 February 1866 carried the following notices:

On Tuesday, 13th instant, at her residence, Margaret-street, Wynyard-square, ELIZABETH COHEN, wife of HENRY COHEN, Esq., aged 74 years.
The Friends of the late Mrs HENRY COHEN are informed that the Funeral will take place THIS DAY, at 3 p.m.

Henry Cohen died 18 months later on 1 August 1867 at Margaret Street, Sydney and was buried at Haslem Creek (Rookwood) Cemetery. Although his Death Certificate and head-stone say he was aged 81 years, other documents indicate that he was more probably aged 77 years. The witnesses to the burial were M. Moss, A[braham] Cohen, and S[igmond] Hoffnung. The Sydney Morning Herald of 1 and 2 August 1867 respectively carried the following notices:

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1. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received re Land Matters, 49/7556, 8 Aug 1849 (AONSW: 2/7827).
2. Colonial Secretary, Letters Received re Land Matters, 49/7646?, 8 Aug 1849; 49/7756, 11 Aug 1849 (AONSW: 2/7827).
3. See James Allen’s ‘Greenway’s Sydney 1822’ map.
4. Was ‘Carrington Street’ originally known as ‘Wynyard Square’? See the address of a witness to Henry’s Will.
5. Howard, Robyn. The Story of Sydney’s George Street, p.25.
6. See W. Hetzer photograph of Margaret Street, 1858, Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.
7. NSW Death 1866 #300.
8. NSW Death 1867 #1620.
9. In Jewish Sydney, The First Hundred Years, 1788–1888, Helen Bersten states of Rookwood: ‘The land was bought in 1862 from Edward Cohen of Melbourne acting on behalf of David Benjamin of London. A special Jewish area was allocated in 1863 and consecrated in 1867.’ One of the thoroughfares in the cemetery is named Cohen Avenue.
On the 1st instant, at his late residence, Margaret-street, Wynyard-square, HENRY COHEN, Esq., in his 81st year, an old and highly respected colonist. Deeply regretted by a numerous family and a large circle of friends.

The Friends of the late HENRY COHEN, Esq., are invited to attend his Funeral, which will move from his late residence, Margaret-street, Wynyard-square, THIS DAY, at 10 a.m. precisely.

Henry was buried at the then new Haslems Creek (Rookwood) Cemetery because the Devonshire Street Cemetery had just been closed. In 1872 Elizabeth was re-interred at Rookwood and she now lays just behind Henry in the area now referred to as the Jewish Old Section.

In his Will, a transcription of which is appended, Henry made cash bequests totalling £2025 to his daughters and several grand-children. One interesting passage in the Will reads, ‘to my grand daughter Esther Marks one of my piano-fortes to be selected by her.’ Piano-fortes probably would have been one of the status symbols of the day—I guess you were reasonably comfortable when you had at least one for each hand. The real estate was divided, in trust, amongst his children, except Caroline (why?). The Will lists his real estate holdings, in 1866, as comprising 40 houses and cottages in and about Sydney, comprising: eight cottages at Newtown near Sydney; four houses, 74, 76, 78 & 188 Crown Street, Woolloomooloo and the four houses at the back of these premises in Woods Lane; two houses, 78 & 80 William Street, Woolloomooloo, Sydney; four houses, 15, 17, 19 & 21 Hunter Street, Sydney; four houses, 1, 2, 3 & 4 Hamilton Street, Sydney; nine houses in Little George Street (now Curtin Place?) and Hunter Street, Sydney; two houses, 59 & 61 Gloucester Street, Sydney; one house, 218 Cumberland Street, Sydney; and two houses, 167 & 169 Clarence Street, Sydney.

1. The Will was prepared by Alfred De Lissa (1838–1913), Solicitor, Bells Chambers, 173 Pitt Street, Sydney.
2. I presume the difference between a ‘house’ and a ‘cottage’ was that a cottage was single-storeyed.
3. See W. Hetzer photograph of Hunter Street, 1858, Macleay Museum, University of Sydney.
On page 115 of *Streets of Old Sydney*¹ is an 1880s photograph² looking East down Margaret Street towards George Street. At the bottom of Margaret Street in George Street is the building which was, at an earlier time, the premises of H. Cohen & Son (on the left, two storey, *without* the attic windows which Joseph Fowles apparently mistakenly included in his streetscape drawings). On the right, on the corner of Carrington and Margaret Streets, opposite Wynyard Square, is Henry’s son-in-law, Abraham’s ‘COHEN’S FAMILY HOTEL.’

According to their Death Certificates, both Henry and Elizabeth died at ‘Margaret Street [Wynyard Square],’ and therefore they may have been residing in one of the terrace houses on the left (but there is no mention of a specific property in his Will).

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Hunter Street in 1858, looking east from George Street towards Pitt Street (Photo: W. Hetzer)

[///Insert/Get Mitchell Library W. Blackwood 1858 photo of Wynyard Square.]
[///Insert/Get University of Sydney W. Hetzer 1858 photo of Wynyard Square.]
The Children

The following list (and the chronological order thereof) has been developed from Jessop’s Family Tree with further reference to the Card Index for the Sydney Morning Herald Births, Deaths and Marriages Notices, 1831–53 (Mitchell Library), a similar Card Index for the Maitland Mercury (Society of Australian Genealogists), and Henry Cohen’s 1866 Will and Death Certificate, etc.

Nancy (Simmons)

Henry’s first daughter, Nancy (c.1812–60), was born in London. She married Joseph Simmons (1810–93), in London in 1832, and settled in Sydney. Nancy died 1 April 1860 and is buried at Melbourne[?].

On Sunday morning, 1st inst, at her residence Collingswood, [sic] Melbourne, Nancy, the wife of Mr Joseph Simmons, Senior, late of this city, and eldest daughter of Mr Henry Cohen of Castlereagh Street, Sydney, aged 48 years.¹

For more details on this family see ‘Joseph Simmons’ below.

¹ Sydney Morning Herald, 3 April 1860.

Five of the six Cohen boys, from left to right, standing: Philip, Lewis and Joseph; sitting: Samuel Henry and Edward Aaron. William is absent and it is therefore quite possible that this photograph was taken at a reunion in Sydney following the occasion of William’s death in 1871.
Sophia (Cohen)

Henry’s second daughter, Sophia (c.1816–82) was born in London. She married Abraham Cohen, son of Emanuel Hyam Cohen of Brighton, England, in Sydney, on 27 July 1836. The officiating clergyman was M. E. Rose.

For more details on this family see ‘Abraham Cohen’ below.

Hannah (Marks)

Henry’s third daughter, Hannah (1818–1904) was born in London on 28 December 1818.1 She married Solomon Marks (c.1816–1852), a schoolmaster,2 in Sydney on 3 August 1836. The officiating clergyman was M. E. Rose.

Solomon and Hannah had ___ children:

Adolphus (1837–1882) was born4 at Sydney on ______ 1837. In 1860, at Melbourne, he married5 his first cousin Charlotte Cohen (1843–1917), daughter of Samuel Henry Cohen. Adolphus died at age 44 on 24 March 1882 and is buried at Rookwood.

Benjamin Francis (1846—____) was born6 at Sydney on ______ 1846. In 1876, at Sydney, he married7 his first cousin Jane (Jenny) Matilda Cohen (1849–1930), daughter of Abraham and Sophia Cohen. They settled in Brisbane. One of their five children, Gladys Marks (1883–1970)8 was the first woman to be appointed an acting university professor in New South Wales.

Esther (1850—____) was born9 at Sydney on ______ 1850; married David Barnett, son of Solomon Barnett and Esther née ______.

Elizabeth (____10–1914) married11 Sigmond Hoffnung on 26 May 1858. She died in England in 1914.

Frank Samuel (c.1865–1893) was born at Sydney on ______. Frank Samuel died at age 28 on 30 July 1893 and is buried at Rookwood alongside Adolphus.

Children mentioned in Henry’s Will: Esther and Benjamin Francis.

Solomon Marks died aged 36 on 18 October 185212. He was then buried at Devonshire Street. In 1872 he was re-interred at Rookwood and he now lays alongside Elizabeth Cohen, directly behind Henry Cohen.

On Henry’s death, Hannah’s share of his estate was £500 cash, Henry’s household linen, plus a life interest in the income from ‘nine houses in Little George Street and Hunter Street and two houses in Hamilton Street known as numbers 1 and 2.’ On the death of Hannah, the legacy passed to her daughter Esther. Esther also received in trust £200 cash plus one of Henry’s piano-fortes. Grandson Benjamin Marks received Henry’s gold watch and watch-guard and in trust £100 cash.

Hannah was born on 28 December 1818 and died13 at age 86 years on 14 February 1904 and is buried at Rookwood, Section D, #137.

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2. NSW Marriage 1836 vol. 135 #18.
4. NSW Birth vol. 136 #101 and vol. 159 #1290.
7. NSW Marriage 1876 #1083.
9. NSW Birth vol. 136 #454.
10. No record of Birth in NSW!
11. Reference?
12. NSW Death vol. 136 #72.
13. Rookwood, Jewish Section D, #137.
Samuel Henry

Henry’s first son, Samuel Henry (c.1821–99), was born in London. He married Eliza Hyams, daughter of Joseph Hyams (in Sydney?) on 8 April 1840. The officiating clergyman was Moses Brown.

///They initially remained in Port Macquarie; about 1866 they removed to Melbourne.

[development] ‘… and prominent Melbourne businessmen Samuel Henry Cohen, … also owned large acreages.’

Samuel and Eliza had __ children:

Francis (1841–1917) born at PM?; married Joseph Katzenstein.

Anne (1841/46–1902) born at Port Macquarie?; in 1863 at Melbourne she married Simeon Frankel (1840–1937), son of Jacob Frankel and Miriam (née Moses).


Sophia (1845–1905) born at PM?; unmarried.

Sarah (1847–____) was born at Port Macquarie; died unmarried.

1849: Samuel Cohen purchased town land lots at Maitland, NSW. [//ref.]


Rose (1851–____) born at Port Macquarie, named 1 June 1851. Rose married David Braham.

1854: Samuel Cohen: Birth of a son on 5 December 1854 at their residence O’Connell Street, Sydney. [Could be Samuel & Rosetta.]

Henry (1865–____) born at Sydney on 5 December 1865.

1866: Samuel in Melbourne (see Henry’s Will).

On Henry’s death, Samuel’s share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘Eight cottages at Newtown near

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1. On his Marriage Certificate, Samuel is identified as ‘Samuel Henry Cohen.’
2. NSW Marriage 1840 vol. 135 #28.
9. NSW Birth 1847 vol. 136 #367.
10. NSW Birth 1849 vol. 136 #417.
12. NSW Birth 1851 vol. 136 #464.
15. NSW Birth 1865 vol. 136 #1072.
Sydney.’ On the death of Samuel and his wife, the legacy passed to their daughter Sophia.

### The Hon. Edward Aaron, MLA

Henry’s second son, Edward Aaron (c.1822–77), was born at London in 1822. The period 1833–1842 was apparently spent at Port Macquarie and Sydney.

Edward and his nephew Henry Emanuel Cohen are the only two Cohens listed in Heaton’s *Dictionary of Dates and Men of The Times, 1542–1879*, published by George Robertson in 1879. Edward’s entry reads as follows:

‘COHEN, Hon. Edward, was born in London, in 1822. He came out with his parents in 1833, and was in business with his father as a grocer in Sydney. In 1842 he went to Melbourne and joined Mr B. Francis as an auctioneer. In 1853 he returned to Sydney, but the climate not suiting his family, went back to Melbourne, and became a general merchant and then auctioneer until 1863. He was Mayor of Melbourne 1862–63. He was elected for East Melbourne in 1861, and was Commissioner of Customs in 1869–70, and again from 1972 to 1873. He died April 13, 1874 [sic].’

On 1 September 1847 Edward, at 24 years of age, married Rebecca (1831–1902), eldest daughter of Moses Benjamin (1805–1885) and older sister of (later Sir) Benjamin Benjamin who later, in 1857, married Edward’s niece, Fanny.

On Henry’s death, Edward’s share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘one house in Crown Street Sydney known as number 188 and one house at the back of the said premises in Woods Lane.’ On the death of Edward and his wife, the legacy passed to their daughter Miriam.

Edward died, aged 54 years, at East Melbourne on 13 April 1877. He was survived by his wife, two sons and four daughters, to whom he left an estate valued at £29,000.

‘This election of October 1864 saw the return of two other Jewish members. One was Edward Cohen, who had arrived in Melbourne in 1842 at the age of 20. He prospered also as an auctioneer, and from the Melbourne City Council, where he was Mayor in 1862–63, he entered the House, representing East Melbourne from 1864 to 1877. Cohen was a silent, solid, urban Conservative, a

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The following paragraphs are the City of Melbourne biographical notes on Edward Cohen:

*Edward Cohen was born in London, 1822, emigrated to Sydney 1833 and arrived in Melbourne 1842, where he joined the auctioneering firm of B. Francis. He subsequently became a partner in the firm of Fraser and Cohen.*

*Elected a councillor in 1860, he became an alderman in 1865, which title he continued to hold until his death. During his mayoralty (1862–63), he gave the first fancy-dress ball in Melbourne.*

*Entering politics in 1864 he held the East Melbourne seat in the Assembly until his death, became Commissioner for Trade and Customs in the Macpherson Government in 1869 and held the same portfolio in the Francis administration, 1872–74. Cohen was a founder and director of the Australasian Insurance Company, governor of the Colonial Bank of Victoria and was for twenty years honorary secretary of Melbourne Hospital, besides being associated with many other public institutions.*

*He was generally regarded as a leader of the Jewish Community and his funeral in 1877 was one of the largest of the times, attended by all classes of the community.*

2. Victoria Church Marriage Record 1847 #46439. In this record, Edward is identified as ‘Edward Aaron Cohen.’


Minister for Trade and Customs in 1869–70 and 1872–74, and regarded as the leader of the Jewish community.¹¹

‘Levi’s election paved the way for the entry of a number of Victorian Jews into parliament in the decades before Federation. The second Jew to take his seat was London-born Edward Cohen who arrived in Melbourne from New South Wales as a young man in 1842 and set up as an auctioneer and later as a tea merchant. He was the son of prosperous emancipist Henry Cohen of Port Macquarie. Elected to the city corporation in 1860, Cohen became mayor of Melbourne in 1862. He contested the seat of Melbourne in 1857 (thus being the first Jewish parliamentary candidate in Victoria) and West Melbourne the following year and was MLA for East Melbourne from 1861 to 1865 and again from 1868 until his death in 1877. In 1869 and from 1872 to 1874 he was commissioner for trade and customs. He was well known in Melbourne’s philanthropic and commercial life—like many Jewish citizens he was interested in hospital welfare, and was honorary treasurer of the Melbourne Hospital, and he was governor of the Colonial Bank of Victoria, as well as director of the Australasian Insurance Company. His funeral was said to be one of the largest ever seen in Melbourne.’

And footnoted: ‘Sutherland, *Victoria and its Metropolis*, vol 2, p.468. Cohen was described as ‘the public Jew of Victoria, par excellence … [He] is the central figure around which our community revolves …’, *Australian Israelite* 29 December 1871. …²²

Edward and Rebecca had four sons and four daughters³:

**Miriam** (c1850—) was born at ____. Miriam married Alexander Marks (1838–1919) (see biographical note below), son of Caspar Marks (____–____).

**Nathan Edward** (1848–67) Birth of a son to Edward A. Cohen at 512 George Street, Sydney, 22 June 1848.⁴ Nathan Edward died in Melbourne, aged 19 years, in 1867.⁵

**Elizabeth** (1852–1926) was born⁶ at Melbourne. Elizabeth married Alfred David Hart (____—____) [?ADB vol. ?, p.?], son of Samuel Hart (____—____) and ____ (née Benjamin).

**Henry** (1854–1855) was born⁷ at Melbourne. Died 14 May 1855.

**Benjamin (Bennie) Stanhope** (1857–1926⁸) was born at ____. Benjamin married Edith Elizabeth Lumley (____—____), daughter of Edward Lumley (____—____).

**Catherine (Kate)** (1859—) was born⁹ at Melbourne. Kate married John Jacobs (____—____).

**Annie (Anne)** (____—____) was born at ____. In 1881 Annie married¹⁰ Montague Cohen (____—____) [ADB vol. 8, p.57], son of Simeon Cohen (____—____). They had one child, a son, Harold Edward Cohen (1881—) [ADB vol. 8, p.53], born¹¹ at Melbourne ______ 1881.

**Arthur Isaac** (1864—) was born¹² at Melbourne. In 1887, at Sydney, Arthur married¹³ his first cousin Violet Cohen (1867—), the daughter of Edward’s late brother William.

Other references:


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6. Vic. Church Record 1852 #46345
13. NSW Marriage 1887 #155.
14. See Appendix for a comment on the ‘Henry Cohen’ chapter of this publication.
Philip

(Please excuse me if I concentrate somewhat on this son from whom I am descended—Ed.)

Henry’s third son, Philip (c.1824–98), was born in London. On 5 February 1851, at 26 years of age, at Melbourne, in the home of Mr D[avid] Benjamin, Philip (described then as of ‘Armidale, NSW’) married Jessie Solomon (c.1833–1916), the 19-year-old third daughter of ‘the late’ Mr Henry L. Solomon, Merchant, Soft Goods, of Hobart Town. (Does this mean that the descendants of Jessie Cohen may have some relationship to the infamous ‘Ikey’?) The witnesses to the marriage were B. Harris and A. H. Hart. The officiating clergyman was M[oses] Rintel.

Jessie’s birthplace in England is variously indicated on her children’s Birth Certificates as: Sheerness, Plymouth, and Portsmouth!

As indicated by various documents, Philip and Jessie were at various times at:
1846–47: Sydney (Philip Cohen’s Auction and Commission Agency) [refs?]
1849: Armidale, NSW
1851: Melbourne—married (Philip then ‘of Armidale’)
1852: Macquarie Street (south), Sydney [now Commonwealth Street]
1856–1860: Manly (Sydney)—licensee, Pier Hotel (now the Manly Hotel)
1862: Launceston, Tasmania
1866: 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy (Melbourne)
1868: ‘Vaucluse,’ Richmond (Melbourne)
1871: Victoria Street, Fitzroy (Melbourne)
1876: Melbourne
1878: Sydney
1880–84: Manly (Sydney)—licensee, Steyne Hotel
1885: Sydney

[///1858 photo of Pier Hotel (MML 1514)//]
[///1887 photo of Steyne Hotel (MML 824 and 1677)//]

The Dunbar was wrecked on the South Head of Port Jackson on 20 August 1857 with the loss of all but one of the 120 passengers and crew. Amongst those who gave evidence at the Inquest, which commenced on 23 August at the Morgue, Circular Quay, was Mr P. Cohen of the Manly Beach [sic] Hotel, who reported that he saw two bodies floating and tried to recover them. He was unable to do so on account of the number of sharks.2

1. Sydney Morning Herald, 15 February 1851; Victoria Church Record 1851 #46446.
Philip was the first licensee of the Pier Hotel, Manly, and held the licence from 1856 to 1860, and 20 years later, after the family had returned from a lengthy spell in Launceston and Melbourne, he was the licensee of the Steyne Hotel, Manly, 1880–84.

Mrs. Kilminster came to live in Manly in September 1857 when the Corso was a swamp. She became the hostess of the Pier Hotel, which after completion in 1856 was kept by a Mr. Cohen. … [About 1926] the hotel was demolished and … re-erected as the Hotel Manly …

The Steyne Hotel was built about 1859 and afterwards added to. The Corso was only a sand track and exceptionally high tides reached almost to the buildings. … It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt with P. Cohen, 1880/4, as licensee.¹

There is a Cohen Street in Manly. Of this street name, in a Paper read by L. C. Wellings (Town Clerk, Manly) at a meeting of the Society of Australian Genealogists on 25 June 1947 on ‘Streets of Manly and the Origin of their Names,’ Wellings could only say ‘Whether Mr. Cohen who kept the ‘Pier Hotel’ in 1857 had anything to do with the naming, I cannot say.’²

What was Philip doing during the period (c.1864–77) the family was in Melbourne? Was he working for/with his brother Edward? Or, is it mere coincidence that Philip and his family were back in Sydney in 1878, the year following Edward’s death.

Philip had an interest in anthropology and ichthyology. Among his published works are The Marine Fish and Fisheries of New South Wales, Past and Present, in their Commercial Aspect, 1892; authorised by the New South Wales Commissioners for the World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893 (Mitchell Library 639/C); and Early Day Aborigines (ML 572.9901/164AI).

Philip and Jessie had 13 children: 7 boys and 6 girls, including at least one set of twins:

‘Jane’ (1852–____) ['a daughter']³ was born 14 June 1852 at Macquarie Street South, Sydney, and named 17 July 1852.⁴

Fanny (?1852–____) married Frederick Fraser.

Esther (?1854–____) married __________ Rofe.


Benjamin Henry (1858–99)⁵ was born at Manly Beach (Sydney), NSW, on 10 April 1858. Philip was then a Hotel Keeper. Previous issue: three daughters and one son! (The ‘one son’ must be this child.)

¹. Swancott, Charles. Manly 1788 to 1968, p.36.
³. Sydney Morning Herald, 19 June 1852.
⁴. NSW Baptism 1852 vol. 136 #493. As the name ‘Jane’ does not appear amongst the ‘living issue’ on any of the later Birth Certificates, she is either an infantile death, or, more probably, the name ‘Jane’ is a Church Records-to-Registry copying error and she is in fact ‘Fanny’—who has the same birth year.
⁵. NSW Birth 1858 #3930; 1858 vol. 136 #731. NSW Death 1899 #15091

Henry L. Solomon

Mrs Henry L. Solomon
Joseph (c.1859–1921) was born at __________ on __________ 1859. On 6 June 1889, at Waverley, Sydney, Joseph married¹ Caroline Mary Menghini,² daughter of Jacob Menghini and Sarah née Lested. Caroline had two sons: Eric Philip (1890–1977) born³ at Neutral Bay, Sydney on 22 April 1900, and Roy Joseph (1893–1979). Caroline died⁴ at 27 years of age at ‘Valetta,’ Walker Street, North Sydney, on 16 April 1898. She is buried in the Old Roman Catholic Section of the old cemetery at Gore Hill, Sydney (sect. 4D, plot #21).

Arthur (1862–____) was born⁵ at Launceston, Tasmania, on 1 March 1862.

Elizabeth Annie (1862–____) was born⁶ at Launceston, Tasmania, on 1 March 1862. In 1889 she married James Smith.

Amy (c.1864–85) was born[///ref?] at __________ on __________. She died⁷ in 1885 at Sydney aged 21 years.

Flora Sophia (1866–1926) was born⁸ on 13 January 1866 at 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria. In 1913 she married Henry Valentine. Philip was then a Merchant. Previous issue: Fanny (13), Esther (11), Sarah (9), Henry (7), Joseph (5), Lizzie (4), Arthur (4), Amy (2).

Nathan Edward (1868–1868) was born⁹ on 4 April 1868 at Vaucleuse, Richmond, Victoria. Philip was then a Merchant. Previous issue: Fanny (16), Esther (14), Sarah (12), Henry (10), Joseph (8), Lizzie (6), Arthur (6), Amy (4), Flora (2). Died¹⁰ in infancy at Melbourne on __________ 1868.

Ernest (c.1870–76) was born[///ref?] at Melbourne on __________ and died¹¹ at age 6 years at Melbourne on __________ 1876.

William (1871–?1923) was born¹² on 23 December 1871 at Victoria Street, Fitzroy, Victoria.

Philip was then an Auctioneer. Previous issue: Fanny (20), Esther (18), Sarah (16), Henry (14), Joseph (12), Lizzie (10), Arthur (10), Amy (8), Flora (6), Ernest (2).

Alber (1877–78) was born at __________ on __________ 1877. He died¹³ in infancy, at Sydney, 18 September 1878.

On Henry’s death, Philip’s share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in William Street Woolloomooloo known as numbers 78 and 80.’ On the death of Philip and his wife, the legacy passed to their daughter Esther.

Two of their children who died prematurely are in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood: Albert, aged 18 months, died 18 September 1878; and Amy, aged 21 years, died 25 September 1885.

Philip died¹⁴ on 6 February 1898, aged 73 years, at his home ‘Valetta,’ Walker Street, North Sydney. His Death Certificate, certified by his son William, states that he was then a Retired Oyster Merchant; that of his 73 years he spent 46 [sic] years in Victoria and 22 [sic] years in NSW [more like 18 years ‘Victoria’ and 46 years NSW!], and that the children of the marriage were: Fanny (Fraser) 44, Esther (Rofe) 42, Sarah 40, Henry 38, Joseph 36, Arthur 34, Lizzie (Smith) 34, Flora 30, William 25, living; 2 [sic] males and 1 female deceased. Philip is buried in the Jewish Section at Rookwood, Section D, #330.

1. NSW Marriage 1889 #2939.
2. The family oral history has it that Caroline Mary Menghini was an ‘Italian-speaking Swiss,’ but her death certificate states that she was born c.1871 at Bathurst, NSW; her father was a gold miner. Her parents had the Jewish-sounding given names of Jacob (Jacomo?) and Sarah (née Lested/Lusted?). Maybe it was Caroline’s father who was originally an Italian-speaking Swiss. Caroline is buried in the Roman Catholic section of the old cemetery at Gore Hill.
3. NSW Birth 1890 #32086.
4. NSW Death 1898 #7067.
5. Tas. Birth 1862 #121/33.
6. Tas. Birth 1862 #122/33, (‘Annie Elizabeth’ on CD)
13. NSW Death 1878 #2750.
14. NSW Death 1898 #3217.
On the death of her husband, Philip, Jessie Cohen received the following letter from The Anthropological Society of Australasia:

The Anthropological Society of Australasia
Argreah
Chandor St. Ashfield
3rd March 1898

Dear Mrs Cohen

It was with much regret that the Society learned of the Death of your much esteemed and respected Husband for he was one who took a very great and active interest in the welfare and progress of the Society and had promised us much valuable and interesting information gathered on different occasions from the Blacks of Australia and upon which he had made voluminous notes.

He having now passed away to the ‘Better Land’ I now write to you to ask if you will entrust them to me and I will prepare them and see that they are published in the Journal giving Mr Cohen all credit and honour for what he has collected.

You will notice that the balance of the ‘Gaboora’ is printed in the last issue of the Journal.

Again sympathising with you in your sad loss.

I remain
My dear Mrs Cohen
Yours sincerely
W. Wentworth Bucknell
… Gen Sect.

Jessie died aged 82 years on 15 July 1916 at her home ‘Arlington’ at 13 Princes Street, North Sydney (now more precisely McMahon’s Point). Her death certificate, certified by her grand-son Eric Philip Cohen, states that her father was ‘Henry Solomon, Merchant, Soft Goods,’ her mother was ‘unknown,’ that she was born in London, and spent 17 years in Tasmania, 33 years in Victoria and 30 years in N.S.W. [more like 17 years Tasmania, 18 years Victoria, 45 N.S.W.] Children: Fannie (Fraser) 60, Sarah (Dresser) 55, Joseph 53, Elizabeth A. (Smith) 50, Flora (Valentine) 47, William 45, living; 5 males and 2 females deceased. Jessie is buried in the Jewish Section at Rookwood, Section 3, #265.2

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1. NSW Death 1916 #13519.
2. Who were Jessie’s parents? When married, at 19 years of age, in February 1851, the marriage notice in the SMH stated that she was the ‘third daughter of the late Henry L. Solomon of Hobart Town’. Was her father the Henry Solomon (d. 31 March 1843, aged 42 years; Tas. Death 1843 #1513/33 [CD 35?]), free settler to V.D.L., per Deveron 1829? He was deceased prior to her marriage in 1851. Check passenger list of Deveron for female child ‘Jessie’. But, Jessie was apparently born in England c.1832 and therefore could not have arrived earlier than c.1833!
Joseph, MHA

Henry’s fourth son, Joseph (c.1826–93), was born in London. At the Sydney Synagogue, on 2 October 1850, he married Mary Hart (c1832–1974) the fifth daughter of Mr Asher Hart (c1786–1860) and Pheobe Hart (née Moses) (c1788–1864) of Sydney. Mary was born in London. The witnesses to the marriage were: Geo. Moss Sect., Elias Moses, Abraham Cohen, Joseph Simmons Senr, Solomon Marks. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs. The Marriage Certificate states that Joseph’s address at the time was ‘Armidale, New England’ and Mary’s address was ‘Sydney.’ They settled initially at Armidale, NSW, then Launceston and finally at Murrurundi.

1850: Joseph ‘of Armidale’ (marriage certificate)
1851: Joseph Cohen purchased town land lots at Tamworth, NSW. [///ref.]

Joseph Cohen was appointed a Justice of the Peace at Launceston in December 1857.7

The life of an Alderman on a town Council does not run smoothly: the following letter appeared in the Launceston Examiner on 10 June 1858:

Launceston, 9th June, 1858.

Gentlemen,—I am in receipt of a requisition from a certain number of ratepayers and other inhabitants of the town of Launceston, wherein they state that I have lost the confidence of the community, and calling upon me to resign my seat in the Municipal Council.

Having carefully examined and analysed the said requisition, I find only the signatures of a very small minority of those electors who did me the honour of placing me in the position of Alderman of the town. I therefore most respectfully and emphatically deny the assertion that I have lost the confidence of the community. Under these circumstances I must, with all due respect, decline to comply with the request of the requisitionists.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

Joseph Cohen.

Joseph was elected to the House of Assembly, for Launceston, in May 1860 and represented the electorate until the following year. The assessment roll for Launceston in March 1859 lists Joseph Cohen as occupier of a house and store in York Street, owned by Arthur J. Nathan, but he was not on the 1860 roll at that address. An address by the electors of Launceston to Joseph Cohen

1. NSW Death 1893/015774.
2. NSW Marriage 1850 vol. 135 #94; Sydney Morning Herald, 5 October 1850; Maitland Mercury, 9 October 1850.
4. Which ‘Hart’ is this ‘Asher Hart’? Jessop’s Family Tree indicates Mary’s father as being ‘Hart, Hyams.’ There was an ‘Asher Hymen Hart’ (witness to Philip Cohen’s marriage in Melbourne) and an ‘Asher Hart’ in Melbourne, and an ‘Asher Hymen Hart’ in Sydney! Rubenstein at p.5 notices the Melbourne Hart, ‘Asher Hymen Hart (who should not be confused with another Asher Hart, a brewer and sporting enthusiast who arrived in Melbourne in 1853 and moved to Sydney 35 years later)’ and then footnote ‘Nor should he be confused with Asher Hyman Hart, who lived in NSW successively as convict and free settler. Levi op. cit. p.42.’ This last Asher Hyman Hart is the only one noticed in Levi’s The Forefathers, Levi says he arrived N.S.W. in 1791 with a seven years sentence; served as convict 1791–95; returned to England free by servitude; returned to N.S.W. as free settler with wife and five children per Mermaid on 21 August 1828; established store at Windsor which he sold in January 1841; buried at Devonshire Street 15 October 1842. But, the following footnote indicates that Mary’s father was in fact yet another ‘Asher’ Hart.
7. CSD 1/29/40 [?].
8. ‘Arthur J. Nathan’? This probably should be Arthur I[saac] Nathan, who was married to Joseph’s sister Caroline; that family also being in Launceston about this time.
asking him to nominate for the seat vacated by Alexander Clerke into the House of Assembly and a 
reply by Cohen appeared in the Launceston Examiner 15 May 1860, p.3, c.5:

TO JOSEPH COHEN, Esquire, Launceston.—DEAR SIR,—We the undersigned, Electors of 
Launceston, request that you will allow yourself to be nominated to fill the seat in the House of As-
sembly vacated by Alex Clerke, Esq., and in the event of your acceding pledge ourselves to do the 
utmost in our power to ensure your return. And remain, dear Sir, your’s faithfully,

[List of 123 undersigned names.]

Launceston, May 11 [1860]

Gentlemen,—In accordance with the above requisition, asking me to allow myself to be 
placed in nomination to represent your interests in the House of Assembly, I at once hasten to com-
ply with your request, and if elected it will be my earnest desire to support such measures as will 
tend towards the advancement of the colony generally. My political principles are known to most of 
you; I therefore need not enumerate them. I have nothing to gain by procuring a seat as your repre-
sentative; I shall therefore eschew all faction, and pursue an independent course of action, voting on 
all questions which may come before the Parliament with only one object, that of benefiting this my 
adopted country.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

JOSEPH COHEN

The Biographical Register of the Tasmanian Parliament 1851–1960, prepared by Scott and Bar-
bara Bennett, lists Joseph Cohen as follows:

Auctioneer. born 1826 London?; son of Henry, merchant, convict, and Elizabeth née Simmons;
made 2 Oct 1850 Sydney, Mary Hart; at least 5 sons, 2 daughters; brother E. Cohen MLA (Vic.). 
Died 1893? Jewish.

Arrived Australia 1833?; lived Armidale, NSW?; possibly member of Cohen Bros, auctioneers, 
Launceston; to Melbourne in 1860s? Executive committee Launceston Bank of Savings. 
Launceston City Council; JP 1857; possibly JP (Vic.); Launceston Artillery Corps (Lieut.); president 
Launceston Synagogue; possibly president East Melbourne Congregation; possibly secretary Matzah 
Association (East Melbourne).

MHA Launceston May 1860 – May 1861.

A photographic likeness of Joseph appears in the ‘1856–1895 Record of Members’ (#55) on dis-
play in the Parliament of Tasmania building. This likeness is taken from the group photograph of 
the five surviving Cohen brothers taken probably in 1871 on the occasion of the death of the brother 
William.

By the time Henry made his Will in October 1866, Joseph had removed to Murrurundi, NSW. A 
Codicil (of the same date) states: ‘Whereas I have lately become surety for my son Joseph Cohen 
for the amount of One thousand Pounds …’ I wonder what Joseph did with this £1000? Probably it 
was for re-establishing himself at Murrurundi.

The Murrurundi and District Historical Society advise:

As far as can be determined Joseph Cohen kept a store in Murrurundi that was situated in Mayne 
Street at the junction of Boyd Street.

This was very near what is now known as Cohen’s Gully and from what I can gather from older 
residents it and Cohen Street would have been named after Joseph Cohen.

The name of Cohen again appears in the town’s history when in 1894 David Cohen & Co. of 
Newcastle took over and operated what is now Dooleys Store with Joseph Dooley being the resident 
manager.

J. Dooley and Co. was formed in 1901. The Board of Directors at that time included Mr George 
Cohen and Mr Samuel Cohen, Mr Septimus R. Levy as well as Mr Joseph Dooley.3

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1. The list of names includes a ‘Henry Solomon’ and a ‘J. W. Simmons’.
2. Letter from Murrurundi and District Historical Society to author 26 June 1996.
3. Samuel Cohen (no relation) is probably the one, born 5 May 1859 at Murrurundi (#185 in the local register) and who was later 
   Clerk of Petty Sessions there; the son of Lewis Cohen (no relation), merchant (then aged 46, b. Lambeth, England) and Sarah 
   (née Hyams, then aged 40, b. Cork, Ireland), who were married at Sydney 11 August 1834. At the time of Samuel’s birth their
On Henry’s death, Joseph’s share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in Hunter Street Sydney known as numbers 19 and 21.’ On the death of Joseph and his wife, the legacy passed to their sons Henry and James.

Joseph and Mary had nine children:

**Nathan** (1852–1853). On 3 November 1852, Mrs. Joseph Cohen bore a son at Armidale, New England.¹ Nathan died at Hunter Street, Sydney, 25 January 1853, aged 14 months.²

**Henry** (1853–____), born³ at Sydney, __________ 1853.

**James Lewis** (1854–____), born⁴ at Launceston, Tasmania, 14 October 1854.

**Rose** (____–____), born at …

**Edward Meyer** (1857–____), born⁵ at Launceston, 21 November 1857.

**Julia/Florence** (1859–____), born⁶ at Launceston, 9 August 1859.

**Adolphus John** (1863–____) born at ?Launceston. Adolphus John died at Wynyard Square, Sydney, 2 April 1865, aged 15 months.⁷

**Frank S.** (1868–____), born⁸ at Sydney, __________ 1868.

Joseph died, at 67 years of age, at Old South Head Road, Woollahra, on 9 June 1893⁹ and is buried at Rookwood cemetery. Mary died¹⁰ in 1874 at age 42 in Melbourne and presumably is buried there.

**Caroline (Nathan)**

Henry’s fourth daughter, Caroline (c.1827–81), was born in London _________. On ________ 1855 [1843], at Sydney, Caroline married¹¹ Arthur Isaac Nathan¹² (1814–1863), son of Nathan Lyon Nathan (d.1850).

Arthur Isaac Nathan had emigrated from London to Australia and settled in Launceston. He was a member of the committee set up to build the Launceston Synagogue in 1842.

At some stage (date???) the family removed to London. Later, most of the sons emigrated to New Zealand, Walter Isaac Nathan settling in Wellington, and others in Auckland. Arthur and Caroline had nine children:

**Lewis Arthur** (1844–____), was born³ at Launceston, Tasmania, on 30 May 1844; m. Stella, daughter of Moses Joseph. Lewis apparently was active in the company L. D. Nathan & Co., founded by his uncle David (1816–1886).¹⁴

**Walter Isaac** (1845–1924), born¹⁵ at Launceston on 27 November 1845; married Amelia (Amy), daughter of Jacob Joseph. After his father’s death in 1863 Walter went to Wellington, New Zealand, and joined his cousin, Jacob Joseph. He later managed Bannatyne &

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previous issue were 6 girls and 4 boys living, and 9 dead (20 births!). Samuel’s father Lewis was the first child of Barnett Cohen and Sierlah (née Levy); and the elder brother of Samuel and David (of David Cohen & Co.) and Abraham Cohen (of Cohen & Levy, Tamworth); Samuel’s mother Sarah was a sister of Eliza who married Henry Cohen’s son Samuel Henry Cohen. Septimus R. Levy (1867–1934) was a son of Lewis Wolfe Levy; he married Gwendoline Marks (1872–1960), a daughter of Alexander Marks and a granddaughter of the Hon. Edward Aaron Cohen. ‘George Cohen’ presumably was George Judah Cohen (1842–1937) who was Septimus Levy’s brother-in-law, he having married Septimus’ sister Rebecca.

2. Jewish Burial records; no mother’s name.
3. NSW Birth 1853 vol. 136 #530.
4. Tas. Birth 1854 #75/33.
5. Tas. Birth 1857 #1264/33.
7. Jewish Burial records; no mother’s name. NSW Death 1865 #417.
8. NSW Birth 1868 #1729.
9. NSW Death 1893 #15774.
11. NSW Marriage vol. 135 #361. (1855? or 1843? Note children’s birth dates.)
12. Arthur Isaac Nathan (1814–1863) was the (twin?) brother of Rachel (c.1814–1893) and older brother of Julia (1822–1876) who married the brothers Samuel and David Cohen respectively, partners in the firm of David Cohen & Co. There is some question as to the order of his given names: Arthur Isaac or Isaac Arthur. In his wife’s obituary: ‘the late I. A. Nathan’; in Henry Cohen’s Will: ‘Caroline widow of the late Isaac Nathan’.
14. See Nathan, L. D. *As Old As Auckland.* (the story of L. D. Nathan & Co. Limited)
15. Tas. Birth 1845 #1074/33. (Great grandfather of Jon A. Nathan of Avne Eitan, Ramat Hagolan, Israel 12925.)
Co., merchants and shipping agents, and was president of the Wellington Hebrew Congregation from 1887 to 1889. (Photo exists, Earle Andrew Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, N.Z.)

Arthur Hyam (1847–1905), the second [sic] son was born¹ at Launceston on 2 May 1847; m. Melinda Davis.

David (1849—____), was born² at Launceston on 15 May 1849; m. Sierlah Cohen, daughter of Abraham Cohen and Leah née Mandelson?

Edward (1851—____), was born³ at Launceston on 25 January 1851; m. _______ (photo extant).

Sarah (1853—____), was born⁴ at Launceston on 29 May 1853; m. __________.

Sidney Jacob (1860–1917), the sixth son, was born⁵ Sydney _____ 1860. He married Frances Baume.

On Henry’s death, Caroline’s share of his estate was £500 cash. The two widowed daughters, Caroline and Hannah, received larger cash amounts than the other children. But for some reason Caroline, unlike all the others, received no interest in any of the real estate. Maybe it was prior to Henry making his Will that Caroline and her children had removed to England.

Caroline died in England in 1881:

On the 19th inst, at 25 Queensborough Terrace W. after a few hours illness, Caroline, widow of the late I. A. Nathan, in her 54th year, deeply mourned. Australian and New Zealand papers please copy.⁶

Other references:

Lewis

Henry’s fifth son, Lewis (1831–1903), was born in London on 11 July 1831⁷.

1851–52: Lewis still at Port Macquarie with Samuel (see Hall’s Diary). [///]

On 22 March 1854 (at Sydney?) Lewis married⁸ Mary Frankel (1836–1887) eldest daughter of Jacob Frankel and Miriam (Sarah?) (née Moses). The witnesses were Joseph Simmons Senr, Abraham Cohen and D. M. H. Moses⁹. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs. Mary was born on 14 July 1836 at Greenwich, London, England.¹⁰

c.1856–c.1874: Lewis at Launceston. [///]

Lewis Cohen was granted an auctioneer’s licence on 9 February 1857.¹¹

Lewis Cohen
In the assessment roll for Launceston in 1860 Lewis Cohen is shown as an occupier of a house, auction mart and store owned by John Francis in York Street. An advertisement for fortnightly sales at his new rooms in York Street appeared in the Launceston Examiner on 22 May 1860, p.3, c.7. His name appeared in the 1867 Directory as ‘Lewis Cohen & Co., auctioneers, York Street, Launceston’.

L. Cohen’s name appears in the list of licensed auctioneers from 1857 until 1870 with the exception of the years 1862–63 when J. Cohen’s name is listed.

In 1871 a Lewis Cohen gave notice of application for a gold-mining lease ‘Royal Standard Quartz Gold Mining Co.’—5 miles south of Black Boy—£1000 to be invested.¹

c.1875: Removed to Sydney. [///]

Lewis and Mary had 12 children:

Sarah (1855–____) was born 19 April 1855 at Launceston, Tasmania. Married Louis Jacobs on 16 December 1874.²

Fanny (1856–____) was born³ 11 August 1856 at Launceston, Tasmania. Married Sydney Jacobs on 29 December 1875.⁴

Sophia (1858–____) was born⁵ 13 January 1858 at Launceston. Married Myer Rintel 18 June 1889.⁶

Minnie (1860–____) was born⁷ 15 January 1860 at Launceston. On 31 March 1891, married her half-uncle, Philip Frankel (1863–1943), the son of Jacob Frankel and his second wife Mary (née Marks).

Albert Henry (1862–____) was born⁸ 14 March 1862 at Launceston. Married Flo …

Nathan Sidney (1863–____) was born⁹ 10 December 1863 at Launceston.

Amy Louise (1865–1872) was born¹⁰ 11 September 1865 at Launceston; died at Sydney in 1872.¹¹

Edward George (‘Maddocks’) (1867–____) was born¹² 1 July 1867 at Launceston. Married Mary …

Elizabeth Maud (1869–____) was born 5 July 1869 at Launceston. On 28 March 1900 married Wolf (Lionel?) Flegeltaub (changed to ‘Rodd’).¹³

Harry Percival (1871–____) was born¹⁴ 23 June 1871 at Launceston. Married Ida …


1. Hobart Town Gazette 1871.
2. Reference Marise Brass.
3. Tas. Birth 1856 #833/33.
5. Tas. Birth 1858 #946/33.
8. Tas. Birth 1862 #314/33.
11. NSW Death 1872 #524.
12. Tas. Birth 1867 #302/33.
15. NSW Birth 1874 #01830.
Estella Myra (1876—____) was born 25 April 1876 at Sydney. After the death of her older sister Minnie, she too married her half-uncle, Philip Frankel (1863–1943), the son of Jacob Frankel and his second wife Mary (née Marks).

On Henry’s death, Lewis’ share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in Hunter Street Sydney known as numbers 15 and 17.’ On the death of Lewis and his wife, the legacy passed to their daughters Fanny and Sarah.

Lewis died in 1903. Mary died _______________________.

William

Henry’s sixth son, William (c.1832–71), was born in London.

‘On 22nd August 1851 the first sale of part of Goonoo Goonoo by the Australian Agricultural Company was held by it when Section J in West Tamworth was sold. West Tamworth is just over the Peel River from Tamworth. The sales of land in West Tamworth included Lot 4 to Lewis Wolfe Levy and Lot 5 to Henry Cohen. Each lot was two acres in extent.

‘William Cohen’s store nearby was probably on Lot 6 at the time. William Cohen was the brother of the Hon. Edward Cohen, later Minister of Customs in Victoria, and [brother-in-law] of Abraham Cohen, of Port Macquarie, father of Nathan Cohen. … Nathan Cohen [at the time] was an employee of William Cohen, and, in connection with an application in 1866 to bring under the Real Property Act a lot of land situated on the north side of Gipps Street at the corner of Ebsworth Street, which David Collins had agreed to sell to William Cohen in consideration of the latter forgiving him a debt, I have seen statutory declarations by William Cohen and Nathan Cohen which record the fact. I gather that William Cohen also had a store at Nemingha.’

William and Nathan Cohen were unrelated to the Abraham Cohen of the firm Cohen & Levy who came to the area in 1849 and subsequently, in partnership with Louis Levy, took over the business of L. W. Levy when Lewis Wolfe Levy went into partnership with Samuel and David Cohen in the business David Cohen & Co. Lewis Wolfe and Louis Levy were brothers, as were Abraham, Samuel and David Cohen.

‘One day in August 1851, so the story goes, a squatter named Nathan Burrows of Hanging Rock station some 60 kilometres southeast of Tamworth near the headwaters of the Peel, was riding around his property when he came across one of his stockmen washing for gold in Swamp Creek with his pint pot. He showed Burrows the small but nonetheless impressive quantity of gold he had already won, which he claimed he had first discovered when he noticed a few yellow specks of metal in the bottom of his pannikin while washing it after a meal. Burrows immediately hastened to Tamworth, where he told William Cohen of the Commercial Store of the discovery. Two days later Cohen set out for Hanging Rock with two men named Charles Parsons, and William Blackburn. Together with Burrows they made a close inspection of the area and according to the legend, found a few specks of gold under a carpet snake which they had killed, then quickly obtained several ounces of the precious metal and at once returned to Tamworth and made their discovery known.’

‘Tamworth in the fifties: There were two stores: Mr L. W. Levy on the eastern side of the river and Mr William Cohen on the western, also two public houses on the west Tamworth: Gannons and Barnes. The post office was at Mr Cohen’s store.’

1. NSW Death 1903 #12544.
Mr William Cohen was a prominent man in Tamworth in 1852. A great sportsman getting up races on the old course, also as secretary, clerk and judge. Many’s the fine race meeting came of every year while he was at the head of the race club. Those times a horse ran on its merits to try and win. No such thing as pulling a horse like they do now or letting them run for a bookmaker as there was no such person those times. All the betting was done at the stand appointing a stakeholder. When the bets were paid over under the supervision of Mr Cohen there was very little disputes.¹

In 1852 William Cohen purchased town land lots at Tamworth, NSW. [///ref.]

On 7 September 1853, at the York Street Synagogue, William married Sarah Solomon (1835–1918), the sixth daughter of Samuel Solomon (1774–1856)² and Rebecca (née Moss, d.1864). The witnesses were: Henry Cohen, Philip Cohen and I. Levey. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs. William and Sarah settled in Tamworth. Sarah was apparently the younger sister of Julia (1826–1914) who married Lewis Wolfe Levy, and Rose (d.1907) who married George Cohen (1820–1889) a brother of Lewis, Samuel, David, Solomon and Abraham Cohen, etc.

Tamworth’s first newspaper the Examiner was launched on 3 April 1859, ‘and the Tamworth shopkeepers and merchants … lent the fledgling paper strong support through advertising. … Prominent among those anxious to publicise their goods and services in the first issue was William Cohen, of the Commercial Store, who ‘begged to inform his numerous friends and patrons’ that he had just received ‘a very large supply’ of sundry wares ‘which he is prepared to sell at a small advance on Maitland prices.’ They featured an extensive range of liquor, a somewhat scantier array of groceries, ‘Colonial Soap,’ Wetherspoon’s confectionery and jams, ‘Miners’ Tools of all descriptions,’ and ‘a large and well-assorted stock of Drapery, Hosiery, Ironmongery, Saddlery, Boots and Shoes, &c.’ Not to be outdone, Cohen and Levy’s Tamworth Stores ‘Established 1846—successors to L. W. Levy,’ also announced an imposing list of liquors ‘selected under the immediate superintendence of our own agent in Sydney,’ plus drapery and ‘clothing at the lowest remunerative prices.’”⁴

The first inter-district cricket match between Gunnedah and Tamworth was played at Tamworth on 12–13 February 1861; The umpires for the match were William Cohen and a man named Had-dington.⁵

[///Insert line drawing of Wm Cohen’s Flour Mill from Tamworth: A Pictorial History. Tamworth Historical Society, 1980, p.42; MosLibrary SS994.4TAM].

‘Of central importance to the economy that produced this impressive mercantile superstructure were Tamworth’s three flour mills with their ‘superior wheat grinding machinery,’ described by the Illustrated Sydney News as ‘the primary source of that general prosperity which has within the last 15 or 16 years pervaded the town and district.’ Their somewhat complicated history was indeed a reflection of the area’s development in the twenty years since free selection. The first mill—following Charles Armstrong’s short-lived or perhaps even still-born venture of 1859—was a three-storeyed structure bounded by Peel and Bligh streets and backing onto the river, built by Donald Munro in February 1864 and leased or bought later that year by William Cohen. With its resultant success, the unconnected firm of Cohen and Levy saw the possibilities offering and in 1867 built a second mill in Fitzroy Street, bringing in George Fielder from Branxton as their first miller. On William Cohen’s death in 1871, Cohen and Levy shrewdly leased his mill and immediately closed it down to prevent competition with their own expanding and more modern plant.”⁶

² NSW Marriage 1853 vol. 135 #121; Sydney Morning Herald, 12 and 13 September 1853. (‘Solomons’ on the CD version.) Sarah’s older sister Julia (1826–1914) married Lewis Wolfe Levy.
³ Arrived Sydney 1835.
⁴ Milliss, Roger. City on the Peel. p.79.
This was the same mill that was better known later as Fielder Maxwell’s. The building still stands today [c.1980], opposite Maguire’s (Tattersall’s) Hotel, Peel Street. One can still see on it very faintly ‘Fielder and Maxwell, Rolling Flour Mills’ and also the name ‘William Cohen.’

On his father Henry’s death, William’s share of the estate was a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in Hamilton Street Sydney known as numbers 3 and 4.’ On the death of William and his wife, the legacy passed to their daughter Fanny.

William Cohen died, aged 40, at Tamworth on 2 October 1871 and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery. Sarah died, aged 83, on 10 July 1918 and is also buried at Rookwood.

William and Sarah had six children:

Frances (Fanny) (1854–) born 1854 at Tamworth; m. Henry Marienthal.
Birth of a daughter on 19 January 1855 at Tamworth.
Birth of a daughter on 27 October 1856 at Tamworth.

Elizabeth (1857–) born at Tamworth on 1857, m. Arthur Benjamin, son of Solomon Benjamin and Miriam (née Nathan).

Birth of a daughter on 11 July 1858 at Commercial Street, Tamworth.

Hannah (1858–) born at Tamworth on 1858.

Henry S. (1860[61?–]) born at Tamworth on 1860[61?]. Died at Tamworth on 1862.

Edward (1863–) born at Tamworth on 1863.

Rebecca (1868[65?–]) born at Tamworth on 1868.

Violet (1867–) was born at Tamworth on 1867; m. her first cousin, Arthur Isaac Cohen, son of Hon. Edward and Rebecca Cohen.

Maud (1868–) born at Tamworth on 1868; m. her first cousin once removed, Ernest R. Cohen, son of George Cohen and Elizabeth née Davis, and grand-son of Abraham and Sophia Cohen.

Anne (––) m. Lewis Isaacs.

Other references:

Frances (Solomon)

Henry’s fifth daughter, Frances (Fanny) (1834–84), was born at Port Macquarie on 17 March 1834 [sic]. On 17 August 1853 she married Henry Solomon (1830–94), [apparently not a son of
Samuel Solomon\(^1\) at the Sydney Synagogue. The witnesses were David Benjamin\(^2\) and I. Levey. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs.

On Henry’s death, Fanny’s share of his estate was £200 cash plus a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in Gloucester Street known as numbers 59 and 61 and one house in Cumberland Street known as number 218.’ On the death of Fanny and her husband, the legacy passed to their daughter Alice.

Frances died aged 48 on 23 October 1884 and is buried in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood. Henry died aged 64 on 24 May 1894 and is buried beside Frances.

Henry and Frances had ___ children:

- **Henry B.** (1854–____) born\(^3\) 1854 at Sydney.
- **Edward** (1855–____) born\(^4\) 1855 at Sydney.
- **Lionel** (1858–____) born\(^5\) 8 August 1858 at Launceston.
- **Louis** (1860–____) born\(^6\) 26 January 1860 at Launceston.
- **Percy** (1861–____) born\(^7\) 12 June 1861 at Launceston.
- **Maud** (1863–____) born\(^8\) 2 January 1863 at Launceston.
- **Ida Florence** (1865–____) born\(^9\) 1 February 1865 at Launceston.
- **Ernest N.** (1866–____) born\(^10\) 1866 at Sydney.
- **John** (1867–____) born\(^11\) 1867 at Sydney.
- **Louisa A. E.** (1868–____) born\(^12\) 1868 at Sydney.
- **Beatrice E.** (1870–____) born\(^13\) 1870 at Sydney.
- **Isabel L.** (1873–____) born\(^14\) 1873 at Sydney.
- **Arthur Julian** (1876–____) born\(^15\) 1876 at Sydney.
- **Alice** (____16–____) born __________ at __________.

Jane (Levy)

Henry’s sixth daughter, Jane (1837–1907), was born\(^17\) at Port Macquarie on 19 April 1837. On 7 November 1855 she married\(^18\) David Lawrence Levy (1828–1893), Solicitor, of Sydney, son of Lawrence Levy. The witnesses were: Joseph Simmons Senr and Philip Cohen. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs.

At the time of Henry Cohen’s death Jane had no issue, and I have found none in the records of the Registrar-General.

On Henry’s death, Jane’s share of his estate was £100 cash plus a life interest in the income from ‘two houses in Clarence Street Sydney known as numbers 167 and 169.’ On the death of Jane and her husband, the legacy passed to Jane’s issue, unless she died without, in which case the legacy passed to Henry’s grand-daughter Jane Simmons, the daughter of Joseph Simmons.

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2. According to a notice that appeared in the *Launceston Advertiser* on 17 December 1840: ‘David Benjamin of the Tamar House, Launceston, married, according to the Jewish rites, Miss Esther Solomon, daughter of H. Solomon, of Victoria House, Hobart Town.’ If ‘H. Solomon’ was Henry Solomon, Esther could be an older sister of the Jessie Solomon who married Philip Cohen in 1851, in the home of David Benjamin, then of Melbourne.
3. NSW Birth 1854 vol. 136 #562.
4. NSW Birth 1855 vol. 136 #614.
5. Tas. Birth 1858 #1126/33.
8. Tas. Birth 1863 #111/33.
10. NSW Birth 1866 vol. 136 #1018 and 1866 #2342.
11. NSW Birth 1867 vol. 136 #1088.
12. NSW Birth 1868 #1736.
13. NSW Birth 1870 #216.
14. NSW Birth 1873 #848.
15. NSW Birth 1876 #1264.
16. Reference?
17. NSW Birth 1837 vol. 136 #099.
18. NSW Marriage 1855 vol. 135 #144.
David died aged 65 on 1 December 1893 and is buried in the Jewish Section D at Rookwood. Jane died aged 70 on 18 September 1907 and is buried beside David.

## Children-in-law

### Joseph Simmons

Joseph Simmons (1810–93) married Henry’s eldest daughter Nancy in London in 1832. Joseph and Nancy returned to the Colony with the rest of the Cohen family (as they followed Henry into exile) in *The Brothers* in December 1833. They settled initially in Sydney.

1830 (May): Arrived from England; auctioneer at 61 George Street.

1832: Returned to England; married Nancy Cohen.

1834: Opened ‘Paddington House,’ a fancy bazaar in George Street.

1834–44: Theatricals …

1844: Travistock Hotel, cnr King and York streets.


1848: ’Joseph Simmons owned the general store and liquor licence [at Bathurst?]’.

1849: ?Joseph Simmons, licensed spirit merchant at Carcoar.

?Joseph Simmons was elected a councillor to the Sydney City Council on 4 November 1850.

With the discovery of gold in the district (Braidwood) the population grew, to the benefit of traders.

1860: Nancy died 1 April at her home at Collingwood, Melbourne.

‘… free settler Joseph Simmons (1810–93) was another early theatrical personality, whose talents were ninety per cent imagination. He first came to Australia in 1830, joining his brother, emancipist James Simmons, in general merchandising. Having failed to establish himself as an auctioneer, he returned to England in 1832, married, and arrived back in New South Wales in time to see his father-in-law transported to Port Macquarie. Although Simmon’s life thereafter had its practical, mundane side—he was variously storekeeper, ironmonger and tavern owner and wholesaler—he could not subdue his thespian inclinations. For a time he managed Barnett Levey’s Theatre Royal, in a volatile partnership which ended in a libel suit against his employer, and he played several, mainly Shakespearian, parts to mixed reviews. He also branched out as a playwright, with the frankly painful melodrama *The Duellist*, proudly billed as ‘the first truly original drama ever produced in the colony.’ It was performed only twice. Much later he opened a dramatic academy and taught elocution, his early stage performances long forgotten, and was President of the Sydney Synagogue in 1859, the fateful year of secession.’

Nancy Simmons died aged 48 years on 1 April 1860 at Collingwood, Melbourne. Joseph Simmons died aged 84 years on 1 August 1893 and is buried at Rookwood (Section D, a little east of Philip Cohen) in the Jewish Old Section. A daughter, Sophie, died 11 May 1909 and is buried along side him.

Joseph and Nancy had ___ children:

**Sophia** (____–1909) was born (at Melbourne?)

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6. ‘Sophie’ on headstone; ‘Sophia’ in Henry’s Will.
Sarah (1847–1904) was born\(^1\) at Bathurst on ______ 1847.

Jane (1851–____) was born\(^2\) at Sydney on ______ 1851.

Children mentioned in Henry’s Will: Sophia,\(^3\) Sarah and Jane.

On Henry’s death, Sophia, Sarah and Jane each received, in trust until their marriage or majority, £100 cash.

Other references:


**Abraham Cohen**

Abraham Cohen (1812–74) was the fifth son of Emanuel Hyam Cohen and Hannah (née Benjamin) of Brighton, England. He was the younger brother of Levy Emanuel Cohen and Nathan Cohen who published the Brighton *Guardian*. Two of Emanuel’s sons migrated to Australia: Abraham in 1834 and Raphael (Ralph) in 1838. Abraham travelled from England to Australia aboard the brig *Warrior*, arriving in Sydney on 27 February 1835. He was 23 years old.

Abraham married\(^4\) Henry Cohen’s second daughter Sophia in Sydney on 27 July 1836.

Abraham must have spent some time with his brothers learning the business at the Brighton *Guardian* as, soon after his arrival in the Colony, he purchased an interest in the *Australian* newspaper\(^5\) and he was for the period July 1837 to September 1839 a part owner and the printer thereof:

The *Australian* the second oldest newspaper, was to survive its contemporary [the *Sydney Gazette*] by six years.

[A. E.] Hayes had continued it until February 1833 when it was suspended on the ground that newsprint was unobtainable. Faithful to the liberal and emancipist point of view, Francis Stephen and G. R. Nichols, the son of a wealthy emancipist and himself, from July 1833, a Sydney solicitor revived it in May 1833. From May 1835 to June 1837 it was owned by its editor, J. R. Hardy, and from that date by ‘Bob’ Nichols and the printer Abraham Cohen. Cohen sold out to Nichols who became editor and proprietor in September 1839.\(^6\)

In 1839 Abraham moved his family to Port Macquarie. At this time the Colony was undergoing a recession due to falling prices for wool and coal. Added to this the fact that his father-in-law was well established at Port Macquarie would have influenced the decision. Upon arrival Abraham was made Secretary and Manager of the Port Macquarie Steam Navigation Company. When Henry Cohen removed to Sydney in 1845 Abraham took over the ‘Speed the Plough’ Inn until, in 1847, he took his family back to Sydney. He bought a house at 22 Kellett Street, Darlinghurst which he named ‘Brighton’.

In 1853 Abraham went to Goulburn ...?????? [Abraham was referred to as ‘late of Goulburn’ in Samuel Cohen’s letter introducing Henry Emanuel Cohen to L. W. Levy. in 1856.]

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1. NSW Birth vol. 136 #355.
2. NSW Birth vol. 136 #468.
3. ‘Sophie’ on her gravestone.
He then established a hotel at Wynyard Square (on the corner of Carrington and Margaret Streets) which he called ‘Cohen’s Family Hotel’. After he sold the hotel it was renamed ‘Pfahletts Family Hotel’. Years later ‘Pfahletts’ was moved to new premises on the northern side of Margaret Street.

In 1860, the following advertisement appeared in the Government Gazette:

Persons who may be willing to dispose of not less than 100 acres of land which may be suitable for a General Cemetery on or near the Great Southern Railway, between Sydney and Parramatta are requested to communicate with this Department, describing the position of the land, and stating the area and price. It is necessary that the soil should be considerable in depth, and generally free from stones, and that the drainage should either be to salt water or to some stream or hollow whence water supply is not obtained for domestic purposes.¹

Many replies were received including a letter from A[braham] Cohen Esq to the Colonial Secretary, dated 1 July 1861:

Sir,

Understanding that the Government are desirous of selecting a plot of ground for a General Cemetery, within easy communication of Sydney, I beg to submit for their approval a block containing between 1600 and 1700 acres, situated at Liberty Plains and about 11 miles from Sydney and through which the railway runs. The land is also of easy access from the Parramatta and Liverpool Roads. There is also in the centre of the land a reserve for a railway terminus. The land was formerly the property of Sir Charles Nicholson (by whom the reserve was given) and is now the property of my brother[-in-law], Mr Edward Cohen, of Melbourne and Mr D[avid] Benjamin, who have placed it in my hands for sale. The price of the whole block is seventeen thousand pounds.

I enclose a rough sketch of the situation of the land. The soil, I believe, is deep and the land is free from floods.²

On 9 April 1862, a letter addressed to A. Cohen Esq. from the Secretary for Lands agreed on behalf of the government to purchase 200 acres near ‘Homebush on the Railway Line, being a portion of the estate called Liberty Plains at the price of Ten pounds per acre the terms being cash on the completion of a perfect title.’³ On 15 April 1862, a Conveyance to the Crown and a Schedule of Deeds were signed, and three days later were lodged in Sydney.⁴

Abraham and Sophia had at least 12 children, two of which pre-deceased Sophia:⁵

Rosa born at Sydney, 27 July 1836 [sic].⁶

Rosa (1837–40) born at Sydney, 12 July 1837;⁷ died at Port Macquarie 29 October 1840.⁸

[Frederick Sydney (1838–1918)] Male child born⁹ Sydney, circumcised 12th August 1838; in 1866 married¹⁰ Rosetta Emanuel (1840–1903), daughter of Samuel Emanuel of Goulburn. They had children: Mabel L., born¹¹ 1867 at Muswellbrook; ?Edith, born¹² 1869 at Goulburn; ?Edith Beatrice, born¹³ 1870 at Goulburn; Samuel H., born 1872 at Goulburn;¹⁴

¹. New South Wales Government Gazette, No. 182, 28 September 1860.
³. ibid, Letter No. 219, p.103.
⁴. ibid, Letter No. 227, pp.107 and 108.
⁵. Sophia’s Death Certificate: ‘Issue: 4 males, 6 females, living; 2 females, deceased.’
⁶. NSW Birth 1836 vol. 136 #70. This birth date is identical to the parents’ marriage date! I suppose the important question for some would be, was she born before or after the marriage ceremony? I suspect it is more likely that this Registry entry is the result of an error made during the copying of Church Records, and that this first Rosa, in fact, never was.
⁷. NSW Birth 1837 vol. 136 #103.
⁸. Sydney Morning Herald, 5 November 1840.
⁹. NSW Birth 1839 vol. 159 #1354.
¹⁰. NSW Marriage 1866 vol. 135 #237.
¹¹. NSW Birth 1867 #12803.
¹². NSW Birth 1869 #10627.
¹³. NSW Birth 1870 #9967.
¹⁴. NSW Birth 1872 #9859.
Estelle, born at Goulburn in 1874; Abraham Leslie, born 1875 at Goulburn; Vera Z., born 1884 at Sydney; Sydney H., born 1886 at Sydney. Frederick died at Sydney in 1918. Frances (Fanny) (1839–1912) born at Sydney, 22 July 1839; on 5 August 1857 married (later Sir) Benjamin Benjamin of Melbourne; died 1912. (Benjamin was then Fanny’s uncle Edward Cohen’s business partner, and, Edward Cohen had in 1847 married Benjamin’s older sister Rebecca.)

George (1840–1912) born at Port Macquarie, 1 September 1840. See below for biographical sketch.

Henry Emanuel (1840–1912) born at Port Macquarie, 1 September 1840. See below for biographical sketch.

Nathan (1842–1910) born at Port Macquarie, 10 July 1842. See below for biographical sketch.

Caroline born at Port Macquarie, 2 March 1844; in 1867 at Sydney married Solomon Joseph of Tamworth.

Hannah born at Port Macquarie, 1 July 1845; at Sydney in 1863 married Elias Samuels.

Sarah born at Port Macquarie, 1 July 1847; died unmarried aged 57 years on 9 September 1904, and is buried at Rookwood (Jewish Section D, #136).

1848: Abraham and Sophia removed from Port Macquarie to Sydney. Infant son died 18 November 1848, at Kent Street, two days old.

Jane Matilda (Jenny) Birth of a daughter on 7 December 1849 at Cleveland Lodge, Castlereagh Street, Sydney; named 5th January 1850. Jane married her cousin Benjamin Francis Marks, son of Solomon and Hannah Marks; she died 1930.

[unknown] (1850–____) born at Queanbeyan, ______ 1850.

Miriam (Minnie) (1852–____) born at Cleveland Cottage, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 26 February 1852; married journalist Philip Benjamin of Sydney. They had three children: two boys and one daughter. The daughter Sophia (Zoë) was prominent in the kindergarten movement.

Aaron (1866–____) born at Sydney, ______ 1866.

On Henry’s death, Sophia’s share of his estate was £100 cash plus a life interest in the income from ‘three houses in Crown Street Woooloomooloo known as numbers 74, 76 and 78 and the houses in Woods Lane at the back of the said premises.’ On the death of Sophia and her husband, the legacy passed to their daughters Jane and Miriam.
Abraham died in 1874 aged 62 years, and Sophia died 26 December 1882 aged 66 years at her home 16 Kellett Street, Darlinghurst. They lay beside each other in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood Cemetery.

David Lawrence Levy

‘David Lawrence Levy’ (1828–93), a native of Gravesend, Kent, arrived in New South Wales about 1853 and became one of the leading legal practitioners in Sydney. As a partner in a well-known firm, he enjoyed a wide reputation as a specialist in common law. A loyal supporter of Jewish causes and charities, Levy donated generously towards the Great Synagogue building fund. He also made handsome contributions towards the erection of Sydney’s Prince Alfred Hospital, and was co-owner of the city’s Theatre Royal …

‘The founder of another lasting [law] practice—now styled Perkins, Stevenson & Linton—was David Laurence [sic] Levy (admitted in Sydney 30 April 1853). An English solicitor of recent standing, Levy sought to advance himself by migrating to the Colony, and had probably arranged for his friend James Lionel Michael (admitted in Sydney 30 July 1853) to travel out and join him. A partnership agreement was made between them in June of that year in contemplation of Michael’s colonial admission.

‘Levy & Michael subsisted for only four years. …

‘In practice on his own account in Sydney, Levy was a prominent member of the Jewish community. He took into articles, by assignment from R. J. Want, a young Englishman Alfred De Lissa whom he permitted simultaneously to serve as Secretary to the Great Synagogue, and whom he took into partnership on De Lissa’s admission on 30 March 1866. The partnership lasted until 1878 when De Lissa went his own way, … Levy practiced alone down to the close of the period here reviewed [1856–1884], continuing active as a member of the Board of the Synagogue and having been its solicitor, treasurer and a trustee from 1871 to 1877.’

‘On 1 September 1883 Alexander Edmund Hemsley, the son of an English solicitor, and himself an English solicitor of recent standing, was admitted in New South Wales. Levy took him into partnership with the style of Levy & Hemsley. This Hemsley did not leave a permanent mark on the colonial profession unless it be found in his encouraging his younger brother Alfred Macartney Hemsley to travel out to Sydney and join the firm. A. M. Hemsley was admitted in New South Wales on 5 February 1886. As it eventuated, the elder brother returned to England while the younger brother went on to a career in New South Wales such that his name continues as common currency in the profession.

‘Ernest Waddell Perkins became a partner with Levy and A. M. Hemsley and the resulting firm of Levy, Hemsley & Perkins lasted until Levy’s death in 1893. In the following year A. M. Hemsley left the practice and joined the Allen family in the firm thereafter known as Allen, Allen & Hemsley.’

On 7 November 1855 David Lawrence Levy married Jane (1837–1907), the sixth daughter of Henry Cohen. The witnesses to the marriage were: Joseph Simmons Senr and Philip Cohen. The officiating clergyman was Jacob Isaacs. There were apparently no issue of the union.

1. NSW Death 1883 #21.
2. The notes of Henry Robert Cohen suggest that David Lawrence Levy was a son of Lewis Wolfe Levy; reference?
3. NSW Death 1925/1893; father’s given name, Lawrence; mother’s given name, unknown.
7. NSW Marriage V1855144 135/1855.
Grand-children

Fredrick Cohen

Fredrick Cohen (1838–1918) was a grand-son of Henry Cohen. He was the eldest son of Henry’s daughter Sophia and Abraham Cohen, born at Sydney in August 1838.

In 1866 Fredrick married Rosetta Emanuel (1840–1903), daughter of Samuel Emanuel of Goulburn.

They had __ children: Mabel L., born 1867 at Muswellbrook; Edith, born 1869 at Goulburn; Edith Beatrice, born 1870 at Goulburn; Samuel Henry (Harry), born 1872 at Goulburn; Estelle, born at Goulburn in 1874; Abraham Leslie, born 1875 at Goulburn; Vera Z., born 1884 at Sydney; Sydney H., born 1886 at Sydney.

Fredrick died at Sydney in 1918.

The following paragraphs are distilled from the notes of Henry Robert Cohen, grand-son of Henry Emanuel Cohen:

When his father Abraham took his family back to Sydney from Goulburn in 1856, Fredrick was to stay in Goulburn, probably with his uncle, Joseph Simmons. Simmons had been in Goulburn for a number of years as a successful storekeeper. With the discovery of gold in the Braidwood district the population grew, to the benefit of the traders. When Fredrick married in 1866, he was a storekeeper in his own right. The girl he married was Rosetta Emanuel (1840–1903), the daughter of a local landowner, Samuel Emanuel, a gold buyer as well as owner of the ‘Beehive Stores’. Emanuel later represented the district in the NSW Parliament.

Their first child, Mabel was born in 1867. She married Solomon Cohen (1859–1921). He was the owner of a department store situated at Cootamundra, a town some 250 miles south west of Sydney. The store survived as ‘Solomon Cohen & Co Pty Ltd’ until 1955 when it was taken over by a larger opposition, J.D. Meagher & Co Ltd. They in turn were taken over by Western Stores Ltd, who were absorbed by Farmer & Co Ltd, who became part of Grace Bros and now, they all form part of the Coles Myer organisation. That is what is called progress.

It is not clear whether Mabel died or divorced but in 1907 Solomon married Alice Grace Matthews. Solomon apparently then handed over control of the store to his brother-in-law Samuel Henry (Harry) Cohen, Fredrick’s eldest son, who remained in control until his death in 1955.

1. NSW Marriage 1866 vol. 135 #237.
2. Samuel Emanuel was born at Portsmouth, England, in 1803—the eldest of the family of Moses Emanuel (who was born in London in 1772) and his wife Rosetta. In 1831, he married in London, Dinah Cohen, a daughter of Jacob Levy Cohen, of Leicester. Samuel Emanuel arrived in Australia in 1832. After establishing himself in business in Sydney, both in the Lower George Street area as well as in Manchester House, 382 George Street, he transferred all his interests to Goulburn, where he opened his Bee Hive Stores on Auburn Street in 1845. Years later, he erected up-to-date and substantial premises. This building still [1943] does service as the Goulburn store of Messrs O. Gilpin Limited. Emanuel acquired much land and property in the town. For some time—he resided in Goulburn till 1857—he was one of its most influential citizens. In 1907, McAlister at page 99, refers to the firm of S. Emanuel & Son, the style by which the enterprise was known from 1857 onwards, as one of the best of the mercantile firms of the bygone years. Later Samuel Emanuel represented the Electorate of Argyle in the New South Wales Parliament. One of his sons, Sydney Levy Emanuel, was an Alderman of the Goulburn Council. (+pic)—AJHS Journal, Vol 1, part 10, December 1943, pp.371–372.
3. NSW Birth 1867 #12803.
4. NSW Birth 1869 #10627.
5. NSW Birth 1870 #9967.
6. NSW Birth 1872 #9859.
7. NSW Birth 1874 #10703.
8. NSW Birth 1875 #11463.
9. NSW Birth 1884 #2554.
10. NSW Birth 1886 #183.
11. NSW Death 1918 #2753.
The Hon. Justice Henry Emanuel Cohen

Henry Emanuel Cohen (1840–1912) was a grand-son of Henry Cohen. He was one of twin boys born to Henry’s daughter Sophia and Abraham Cohen at Port Macquarie on 1 September 1840.

Henry Emanuel Cohen’s entry in Heaton’s Dictionary of Dates and Men of The Times, 1542–1879, published by George Robertson in 1879, reads as follows:

‘COHEN, Henry Emanuel, M.L.A., born at Port Macquarie in December 1840, came with his parents to Sydney in 1848, and removed with them to Goulburn in 1855. He was educated at various schools in Sydney and Goulburn. In 1856 he became an assistant in the house of David Cohen and Co., West Maitland, where he remained until 1864. From 1864 to 1868 he was engaged in commercial pursuits, when he proceeded to England to read for the Bar, to which he was called in June 1871. He left London on his return to New South Wales at the end of September, and was a passenger by the ‘Rangoon’ when she was lost at Galle. In December, 1874, he became Member for West Maitland, and supported the Parkes Administration. He accepted office as Treasurer under Mr. Farnell in December, 1877, and retired with that Ministry in December, 1878.’

The following paragraphs are distilled from the notes of Henry Robert Cohen, a grand-son of Henry Emanuel Cohen:

With his basic education completed, at 16 years of age, Henry Emanuel joined the merchant firm of David Cohen & Co. as a clerk. The head office was at Maitland and it was there that Henry was sent after a period in Sydney. The following is an extract from a letter sent by Samuel Cohen (in Sydney) to Lewis Wolfe Levy, the partner in Maitland:

The young gent who made out this invoice, I intend to send up to you. I am certain you will like him. He is certainly one of the most ‘kute’ and respectable lads I have ever met. He is a Jew and the son of Mr A. Cohen [late of Goulburn]. He will suit you well. I did intend to keep him in Sydney office, but I can get another and if he does not suit can discharge. You want a lad who will stop with you for years and that you can be certain.

‘Henry was to remain with Levy for eight years until, in 1864, he joined in business with his twin brother George at Bathurst. This venture was not a success and closed after two years.

‘In 1868 Henry decided he wanted a career in the law and travelled to London to study. He entered Middle Temple and read with several of the eminent lawyers of the London Bar. In 1871 he was admitted to the English Bar and immediately sailed for home on the Rangoon. The ship was wrecked on the rocks at Galle (Ceylon) on 1 November 1871. Henry was unharmed but lost all his possessions. . . .’

On 15 July 1884 at the Great Synagogue, Sydney, Henry Emanuel married Sophie Frank the daughter of Leo Frank of Hanover, Germany. Sophie had arrived in Sydney some twelve months previously as governess to Sigmond Hoffnung’s children. At that time Henry was residing at Darlinghurst Road, Sydney. Her address was given as Clopee, Potts Point, Sydney. Her birthplace is later given as Hildesheim, Hanover, Germany. The wedding reception was held at the home of Sigmond Hoffnung at Elizabeth Bay.

The following is extracted from the introduction to an interview, given by H.E.C. while on a 12-months leave in England and on the Continent, which appeared in the London Jewish Chronicle, c.1911:

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1. NSW Marriage 1884 #1039.
[Henry Emanuel] qualified for the Law in England and was ‘called’ in the year 1871, returning, subsequently, to Sydney to practice. In 1881, he became District Court Judge and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, holding the position for about ten months, and then resuming his practice at the Bar. In 1895, he was appointed, by the present High Commissioner for the Commonwealth (Sir George Reid), then Premier of New South Wales, Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, receiving in the following year, and at the same distinguished hands, an appointment as Permanent Judge. Altogether, Mr Justice Cohen has spent nearly sixteen years on the Bench—the present occasion being the first on which leave of absence has been granted him from his judicial duties.

In 1875, Mr Justice Cohen was returned as member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the constituency of West Maitland, where for some seven-and-a-half years (beginning in 1856) he had been in the service of the mercantile firm of David Cohen and Co. In 1877, he was again returned for West Maitland, and, on the formation of the Farrel Ministry, became Colonial Treasurer.

At the General Election of 1883, he was once more returned for his old constituency, receiving the appointment of Minister of Justice in the Stuart administration. This post he retained until the end of 1885 when, the Ministry having been dissolved through the ill-health of the Premier, he retired from politics altogether, and devoted his time entirely to his profession. After the general election of 1880, however, occurred a striking incident in the Judge’s career. At a meeting of the party to which he belonged, he was invited to allow himself to be nominated for the Speakership of the New South Wales Parliament. For purely personal reasons the honour was declined; but that he would have been chosen is evident from the fact that the gentleman who was nominated in his stead was duly elected by the House of Assembly.

Last December, it may be recalled, the Jewish community of New South Wales marked the occasion of the Judge’s seventieth birthday by having his portrait painted in full length scarlet and ermine judicial robes and full-bottomed wig. With the approval of the Trustees of the National Art Gallery at Sydney, the portrait has been hung in that Gallery.’

Henry Emanuel and Sophie had two children, both of whom became barristers in Sydney:

**Edgar Henry** (1885–1930) was born 5 November 1885 at Sydney. Edgar married Edith May Josephine Kerr (1888–1985), daughter of Robert Kerr. Edgar died 14 October 1930 and is buried beside his father at Rookwood.

**Cecil Hope** (1888–1918) was born 5 July 1888 at Sydney. Cecil died, unmarried, in 1918 in a British Army Hospital, London.

Henry Emanuel Cohen died, aged 72 years, at sea, aboard the ss *Freidrich der Grosse*, at 6.30 a.m. on 5 January 1912, while returning from the abovementioned 12-months leave. He is buried at Rookwood, Section ///, No. ///. Sophie died in Paris in 1943.

**George Cohen**

George Cohen (1840–1912?) was a grand-son of Henry Cohen. He was one of twin boys (the other Henry Emanuel Cohen) born to Henry’s daughter Sophia and Abraham Cohen at Port Macquarie on 1 September 1840.

The following paragraphs are distilled from the notes of Henry Robert Cohen, grand-son of Henry Emanuel Cohen:

In 1856, at the age of 16, George was sent to Tamworth to obtain work experience with his uncle William Cohen. In 1864, he and his twin brother Henry Emanuel went to Bathurst and com-

1. NSW Birth 1888 #2859.
2. NSW Death 1912 #4122.
menced trading as general storekeepers. Once again the discovery of gold was the attraction. However, they were not successful and closed the business after two years. In 1866 George went to Goulburn, maybe to join his older brother Frederick. There he met and [at Sydney] married¹ Elizabeth Davis, the daughter of Isaac Davis, who owned an hotel in the town.

After his marriage George took his wife to Cooma, some 150 miles southeast of Goulburn. Here he established a store. This time he was successful. His five children were all born at Cooma.

In 1882 George took his family back to Tamworth. Here his son Victor was to marry his first cousin Ida the daughter of George’s younger brother Nathan.

For a brief period George owned a store in Gunnedah² some 30 miles west of Tamworth. In 1886 he returned to his birthplace, Port Macquarie.

George and Elizabeth had five children:

Victor Isaac (1870—____) was born³ ______ 1870 at Cooma, he married his first cousin Ida Cohen, the daughter of Nathan Cohen and his first wife Esther (née Solomon).

Ernest R. (1867—____) was born⁴ ______ 1867 at Bathurst. He married his first cousin once removed, Maud Cohen, the daughter of William Cohen and Sarah (née Solomon). Ernest became a solicitor in Sydney.

Arthur H. (1868–c.1948) was born⁵ ______ 1868 at Sydney, unmarried.

Ettie Amelia (1875—____) was born⁶ ______ 1875 at Cooma, Linda (____–1955), … died September 1955.

Nathan Cohen (1842–1910) was a grand-son of Henry Cohen, a son of Henry’s daughter Sophia and Abraham Cohen, born at Port Macquarie on 10 July 1842.

The following is extracted from the notes of the Tamworth Historical Society (1996):

‘On the evening of Friday 27 August 1858 a two-wheeled cart drawn by two sweating horses jolted over the stony Peel River ford near Jewry Street, ascended the north bank and then lumbered eastward down Peel Street. On board was a youth of 16, Nathan Cohen, who had come from Newcastle on John Gill’s modern passenger transport vehicle. The 180 mile journey had taken three days. The vehicle was halted in front of Cohen & Levy’s store, site of Kensell’s, the passengers alighted and the mails were delivered to the store for sorting. Many of Tamworth’s population of 500 were there to welcome the cart and to collect their mail, and there was a good sprinkling of people from outlying properties for the arrival of the mail was an event of great importance.

‘Nathan Cohen had come to Tamworth to join his uncle William Cohen, who conducted a store in Ebsworth Street, West Tamworth. Nathan and his uncle were unrelated to the Abraham Cohen of Cohen & Levy. The new arrival had been born at Port Macquarie, received his formal education in Goulburn under the care of the Rev. Mr Patterson and had received business experience in Sydney. He remained with his uncle William for ten years and after the latter’s death [in 1871] he managed the business on behalf of William’s widow. …’

¹ NSW Marriage [1866?] vol.135 #238.
² I suspect that this ‘Gunnedah’ George Cohen was the brother of Lewis/Samuel/David/Abraham Cohen, not the twin brother of Henry Emanuel, ????????
³ NSW Birth 1870 #8717.
⁴ NSW Birth 1867 vol. 136 #1031 (and #5863).
⁵ NSW Birth 1868 #2070.
⁶ NSW Birth 1875 #9891.
‘In 1868 [sic] he started his own business as an auctioneer and estate agent, his office being on the site of the shoe store at 335 Peel Street. By 1870 he had established a soap works, had coal mining interests, was foundation director of the Tamworth Permanent Mutual Benefit Building Society and was an active worker and office bearer for the Tamworth Hospital. During his lifetime he was associated with every organisation which worked for the benefit of Tamworth and its citizens.

‘In 1872 he erected the Exchange Buildings which were subsequently enlarged. 1875 saw the beginning of his partnership with Mr David Nathan who married Siela [Sierlah] the daughter of Abraham Cohen (of Tamworth). This partnership was dissolved in 1885 and Mr M. C. Solomons joined the firm, an arrangement which lasted until 1895. Nathan Cohen then operated the business himself until 1908 when it was converted to a limited-liability company.

‘The dairying industry in the Peel Valley was founded by Nathan Cohen. At his farm, ‘Percydale’, on the Armidale Road, he established a dairy, installed a small butter factory and employed his own butter maker. To improve his dairy herd he purchased the best stock available and his Jersey bull ‘Sir Patrick’ was the first of that breed to be brought into the Peel Valley. Later when the Tamworth Co-Operative Dairy Society was formed, he became a foundation director. …

‘In 1866 Nathan married Esther Solomon and lived next door to his uncle at what is now 39 Church Street, West Tamworth. On account of his wife’s association with the NSW south coast, their home was called ‘Eden Cottage’. About 1875 he built a new two-storey brick residence in Carthagie Street and in honour of his father’s home town he named it ‘Brighton’. At the time it was the first home built in the area and many people wondered why he built ‘up in the bush’. ‘Brighton’ became 98 Carthagie Street. His wife died in 1880 leaving him with six young children. He married his wife’s sister, Deborah, a couple of years later. There was one son, Eliot, from his second marriage. …

‘Shortly before going overseas [in 1908] Nathan had been gored by a bull and from this he never fully recovered. His death came in August 1910. His demise had such an impact that on the day of his funeral ‘life stopped in Tamworth and all shops closed in his honour’. He was described as being one of exemplary benevolence, a source of great moral, commercial and social strength, and one of the main pillars of Tamworth.’

The following is extracted from ‘The Jews of Tamworth’ by Rabbi Dr Israel Porush which appeared in AJHS Journal, Vol. 3, Pt 4, December 1950.

‘The most prominent Jewish resident of Tamworth and the Northern District was undoubtedly Nathan Cohen, who belonged to an old Anglo-Jewish family. His father was Abraham Cohen of Port Macquarie, where Nathan was born in 1842. He came to Tamworth at the age of sixteen, and resided there for upwards of fifty years. He was first employed by an uncle [on his mother’s side], William Cohen, who carried on business as a general merchant. After the death of his uncle, he managed the business for a time on behalf of the widow, but in 1872 he established his own business as auctioneer and agent, for a while together with partners, then entirely on his own.

‘Already as a young man he took a keen interest in the public life of the town, and furthered its welfare throughout his life. There was scarcely a movement for the advancement of the welfare of Tamworth with which Nathan Cohen was not connected. He played an important part in building up the district. He was married to two sisters in succession, the daughters of Solomon Solomon of Eden: Esther and Deborah.

‘The Municipal Council of Tamworth was formed in 1876, and Nathan Cohen was a member of the first Council, and then for a number of years afterwards, twice occupying the position of Mayor—in 1882 and 1883.

‘In the commercial world he was prominent. He founded, or helped to found, a number of companies which have flourished to this day [1950], and which have contributed much to the well-being

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1. This David Nathan could be Nathan’s cousin David, the son of Arthur Isaac Nathan and Caroline née Cohen, born at Launceston on 15 May 1849.
2. NSW Marriage 1880 #948.
3. NSW Marriage 1866 vol. 135 #245.
of the population. The Building Society and the Dairy Company should be mentioned in particular. He was also Chairman of the Tamworth Gas and Coke Co., was closely associated with Centenary Coal and Coke Co. and the Green Mount Land and Quarry Co. The core of his commercial activities was the firm of Nathan Cohen & Co. Ltd., auctioneers and stock and station agents. After Nathan Cohen’s death the firm changed into Victor Cohen & Co. Ltd., Victor being Nathan’s nephew and son-in-law, the husband of his daughter Ida.

‘Also in the charitable field he was very active. He was largely instrumental in the building of the Tamworth Hospital, and belonged to its Committee for many years, occupying on several occasions the offices of Treasurer, President and Trustee.

‘Nathan Cohen took a leading part in every philanthropic movement of the town. Also in the sporting world he occupied a prominent position. He was President of the Cricket Club and a Trustee of the Jockey Club.

‘His personal qualities were acknowledged by his fellow-citizens, who saw in him a friend ready to help and to advise. He was compared to ‘one of the old Patriarchs of his own noble race.’ He enjoyed high esteem in the city, which was publicly manifested on the occasion of his departure for Europe in 1908. The tributes paid him then, and two years later at his funeral, are evidence of the warm place he occupied in the hearts of the Tamworth citizenry. He died on 15 August 1910, leaving a widow and seven children. He was buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, next to his first wife.

‘Nathan Cohen was the youngest brother of the Hon. Henry Emanuel Cohen, MLA, and Judge of the Supreme Court, and of Lady Benjamin of Melbourne. Several members of the family have continued their association with Tamworth to this day. Mention may be made of his daughters, Mrs. Victor I. (Ida) Cohen, JP, [MBE.] and Miss Alice Cohen, who have been active over many years in the charitable endeavours of Tamworth. The former was President of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society for some thirty years, the latter Hon. Secretary of the Red Cross for over twenty-five years.

‘… In the 1859 Committee of the Tamworth Benevolent Society we find the names of three Jews—William Cohen as Treasurer, and Abraham Cohen and L. W. Levy.’

Nathan married1 two sisters, the daughters of Solomon Solomon of Eden. Esther (1846–1880), died at Tamworth aged 34 on 16 December 1880, in childbirth having their seventh child. Deborah (1842–1942) died aged 99 on 20 February 1942. Nathan died at Tamworth aged 68 on 16 August 1910. All are buried (as are their children Alice, Percy, Cora and Eliot) in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood.

By his first wife Esther, Nathan had four daughters and two sons:

Ida (1867–1970), married her first cousin Victor Isaac. Cohen (____–____), the son of George Cohen and Elizabeth (née Davis). Ida apparently never left Tamworth, not even to go to Sydney, and died there in 1970 aged 102. (See bio below.)

Alice (1869–1955), died, unmarried, at Tamworth aged 86 on 30 May 1955.


Cora Rose (1873–1957). In 1895, at the Great Synagogue Sydney, married Henry (Harry) David Cohen (1860–1938), son of David Cohen and Julia (née Nathan).2 Their children were Nell, Nina Debb3 and Noel. Cora died at Sydney aged 83 on 13 May 1957 and is buried in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood. Harry died in London aged 78 on 30 December 1938.

Eden (____–____); married Bernard Cohen of New Zealand.

Aubrey A. (____–____); married Vera Hyman, the daughter of Lewis Hyman and Sarah née Levey of Tamworth.

By his second wife Deborah, Nathan had one son:

1. Esther: at Sydney, NSW Marriage 1866 vol. 135 #243; Deborah: at Eden, NSW Marriage 1882 #4319.


3. Nina Debb Cohen was born on 14 September 1899 at Brisbane while her father Henry David Cohen was manager of Elliot Brothers. She married Albert Edward Saalfeld (1896–1978); had children Sally (b.1929), Allene (b.1933) and John (b.1938); and died at Sydney 20 September 1984, and is buried nearby her mother, Cora Rose Cohen (née Cohen), in the Jewish Old Section at Rookwood. Reference: headstone, etc.
References:
These articles also contain bio material on Abraham Cohen and Louis Levy, and early days of L. W. Levy, and Albert Joseph.

Jane (Jenny) Matilda Marks
Jenny Marks (1849–____) was born Jane Matilda Cohen, the daughter of Abraham Cohen and Sophia (née Cohen). In __________ she married her first cousin Benjamin Francis Marks, the son of Solomon Marks and Hannah (née Cohen).
For many years Mrs B. F. Marks acted as President of the Jewish Girls’ Guild, and her daughter Enid (Mrs R. W. Solomon) now [1945] continues the good work.¹
Bio …

Benjamin (Bennie) Stanhope Cohen
Benjamin S Cohen (1857–1926) married Edith Elizabeth Lumley (____–____), daughter of Edward Lumley (____–____).

Bennie ran his insurance business out of Insurance House which stood in George Street, Sydney, on the western side between Margaret and Jamieson Streets, about fifty yards from where Henry Cohen’s shop once stood on the other side of the street, at the junction with Margaret Street.

Sir Benjamin Benjamin

Benjamin Benjamin1 (1834–1905) married Henry’s grand-daughter, Fanny (1839–1912), the daughter of Henry’s daughter Sophia and Abraham Cohen, in Sydney, on _______ 1857.

‘The Hon. Sir Benjamin Benjamin, Kt., JP, died on 7th March 1905. He had been the second Jew in Australia to receive a knighthood. Born in 1834, he was the son of Moses Benjamin and a relative of the founders of the Melbourne Synagogue. Benjamin Benjamin arrived in Victoria in 1843, aged nine years, and was educated at an academy conducted by one Rev. W. H. Jarrett. He became a partner with his father and brother Elias in M. Benjamin & Sons, merchants and importers, and in 1846 he joined Edward Cohen in conducting a tea importing and general commission agency.

‘He was with Cohen until 1878 [sic], when, aged 44, he retired from business and devoted the rest of his life to public service. In 1870 he was elected to the Melbourne City Council as representative for Albert Ward; he became an Alderman in 1881, and was Mayor of Melbourne from 1887 to 1889. He was a member of the Legislative Council from 1889 to 1892. He acted as a Commissioner for the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition in 1888, and it was in recognition of his services and hospitalities for this exhibition that he was knighted.

‘Sir Benjamin had many philanthropic interests, among them the Hospital Sunday Fund and the Jewish communal charities. He was many times President of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation—from 1968 to 1875, 1879 to 1880, and 1885 to 1891, a total of fourteen terms! He was one of Jewry’s finest representatives.’

[AJHS Journal, Vol. 4, Pt. 2, pp.70–71. (+pic)]

Benjamin and Fanny had __3 children:

1. Lyon Benjamin (1779–1862), merchant, of Hyde Park, London had four sons (by his first wife, Miriam, née Moses) who came to Australia with capital seeking to take advantage of the opportunities in the new colony:

   Samuel (1804–54) was apparently the first to arrive; he was in partnership with his brother-in-law Elias Moses with stores in Sydney and Goulburn. Samuel and Elias arrived in Sydney on the same ship in 1835. Samuel married Rachel, the daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Moses.

   Moses (c1806–1885) arrived in Australia after David and Solomon and also opened a store in Melbourne in Collins Street, called ‘Albert House’. Moses married Catherine, the daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Moses. Moses Benjamin and Catherine had seven children, including Rebecca, who married Edward Aaron Cohen; Rachel, who married Isaac Hart; (Sir) Benjamin, who married Frances Cohen; Samuel (died young); Elias, who married Cissie Nathan, daughter of David Nathan and grand-daughter of Nathan Lyon Nathan; David (unmarried); Frances, who married Edward Marks. Moses died, aged 79, in 1885. Elias died, aged 33, in 1870.

   David (1815–93) and Solomon traded in Melbourne as partners in a drapery store in Collins Street called ‘Cheapside House’. David married Esther Solomon (1824–79). Solomon married Miriam Nathan, daughter of Nathan Lyon Nathan, at Sydney on 11 August 1841.

   Lyon Benjamin also had two daughters: Harriet, who married Samuel Hart, the father of Alfred David Hart and (by his third wife, Rachel) Sarah, who married Jonas Myers of Adelaide.

   [Lady Cohen’s obituary in the AJHS Journal (Vol. 2, Pt 5, 1946, p.287) states that her grand-father, Samuel Hart, married a sister of Benjamin Benjamin. This apparently was an error: Harriet Benjamin was Benjamin Benjamin’s aunt.]

2. Edward Cohen died 13 April 1877.

3. Geulah Solomon (ADB) says the Benjamins had 22 children; only 13 living when he died.
Maurice Edward (1858–____) married Diana Hart (née Levey)\(^1\) (1860–1898), daughter of Montague Levey and Kate née Levey (who were first cousins).\(^2\) Maurice changed his surname to Blaine.

Catherine (1860–1875) unmarried.\(^3\)
Herbert Abraham (1862–____) unmarried.\(^4\)
Florence Sophia (1863–____) married Bernard Sinauer.\(^5\)
Percy Lionel (1865–____) unmarried.\(^6\)
Edith Fanny (1867–____).\(^7\)
Frank Redford (1868–____) unmarried.\(^8\)
Howard Elias (1870–____) married ____________.\(^9\)
Minnie Violet (1871–____) unmarried.\(^10\)
Ida Rose (1874–____) unmarried.\(^11\)
May Constable (1876–____) married Alfred Phillips,\(^12\) the son of Louis and Clara Phillips.
Leslie Ronald (1878–____) married Dorothy Sternberg.\(^13\)
Gerald Septimus (1879–____) married Isabelle/Kate Davis.\(^14\)
Stanley (____–____) unmarried.
Oswald Deronda (1884–____) married Marjorie Bloch.\(^15\)
Myra Lilian (1885–1958) unmarried.\(^16\)

Other references:

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\(^1\) Diana Levey had previously been married to Louis Hart (1849–1884), the brother of Alfred David Hart.
\(^2\) Vic. Birth 1858 #10332.
\(^3\) Vic. Birth 1860 #6780; Vic. Death 1875 #14298.
\(^4\) Vic. Birth 1862 #3539.
\(^5\) Vic. Birth 1863 #21969.
\(^6\) Vic. Birth 1865 #14461.
\(^7\) Vic. Birth 1867 #1521.
\(^8\) Vic. Birth 1868 #22644.
\(^9\) Vic. Birth 1870 #17615.
\(^10\) Vic. Birth 1871 #18142.
\(^11\) Vic. Birth 1874 #3572.
\(^12\) Vic. Birth 1876 #17620.
\(^13\) Vic. Birth 1878 #10277.
\(^14\) Vic. Birth 1879 #10587.
\(^15\) Vic. Birth 1884 #18432.
\(^16\) Vic. Birth 1885 #26918; ‘Miss Myra Benjamin, who died in Melbourne on 4 April 1958, aged 72, was the last survivor of the sixteen children of Sir Benjamin Benjamin and Lady Benjamin. …’ [Obituary, AJHS Journal, Vol. 4, Pt. 7, May 1958]
Rev. Elias Blaubaum

Elias Blaubaum (1847–1904), in 1877, married Henry’s grand-daughter Agnes Rebecca Cohen (1849–92), the daughter of Samuel Henry Cohen and Eliza (née Hyams).

The following is distilled from a lengthy monograph by Hilary L. Rubenstein, PhD, which appeared in the AJHS Journal, Vol. 9, Pt. 8, 1985:

Rabbis and ministers such as Abrahams and Cohen, A. T. Boas, A. B. Davis and D. I. Freedman have been accorded their due places in the annals of our community. They are the subjects of entries in the ADB. The failure to include Rev. Elias Blaubaum in that invaluable and prestigious reference work is a serious sin of omission. Blaubaum, minister of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation for thirty-one years and editor of the Jewish Herald for almost twenty-five, was one of the most significant figures—clerical or lay—in the entire Australian Jewish story. He was certainly the most Jewish creative.

Australian Jewry should be more aware of this remarkable man and his place in our history.

Elias Blaubaum came from an orthodox German Jewish family. He was born towards the close of 1847 in Rotenburg, a country town on the River Fulda in Hesse-Kassel. His parents were Aaron Blaubaum (Aharon ha-Levi), a drapery merchant, and Miriam, née Nussbaum. The Jews of Hesse-Kassel, who were finally emancipated in 1866 when the principality came under Prussian rule, had been settled in small rural communities such as Rotenburg for centuries. The unusual name Blaubaum, meaning ‘blue tree’, may have derived from the distinguishing shield outside the family residence, a common practice among Jews of that part of Germany, who adopted surnames long before they were compelled to do so by law.

Throughout his life Blaubaum exhibited the traits of a cultured and enlightened German gentleman while remaining a proud and passionate Jew. He did not believe that the conferral of civil rights upon Jews obligated them to dilute their Jewishness. On the contrary, he believed that the acquisition of rights of which their forefathers never dreamed behoved the Jew to cling all the more tenaciously to their ancestral religion. His attitude exemplified that of the established Australian Jewish community, with its pursuit of integration without assimilation, and its resolve to resist both the honey and the sting of the wider society.

He was a gifted scholar, and he graduated about 1870 from the Royal Provincial College of Kassel, where he apparently trained as a teacher. Upon graduation he became assistant minister and Hebrew teacher at Gudensberg, a little town in the Kassel region. In 1873 Melbourne businessman Isaac Hallenstein, on a business trip to Europe, interviewed him for the post of St Kilda’s first minister. He was then twenty-five years old, a young man of ‘prepossessing appearance’ as the Australian Israelite put it: slight, dark, and unmistakably ‘semitic’. He was not an ordained rabbi, but his three years’ experience at Gudensberg was sufficient to persuade a rather desperate St Kilda congregation, which had been searching for a suitable man for months, to accept Hallenstein’s recommendation that he be appointed.

Leaving Germany in October 1873, Blaubaum travelled to London for an audience with Chief Rabbi Nathan M. Adler. Blaubaum boarded the steamship Great Britain at Southampton knowing hardly a word of English. By the time he arrived at Sandridge (Port Melbourne) eight weeks later, on 23 December 1873, he had taught himself enough to be understood. Interestingly, his shipboard journal begins in German and ends in English.

Blaubaum was ‘a ripe scholar and an indefatigable student’ who saw it both as a duty and a pleasure to share with others what he had learned. ‘Improve yourself! Then endeavour to improve others!’ was the rabbinic dictum which served as his watchword. He had a deep sense of history and
was always very conscious of his ministerial role as a steward of Judaism, whose task it was to guard and to hand on his heritage to the next generation.

Rabbi Dr Abrahams, who arrived in Victoria in 1885 and quickly became one of Blaubaum’s most devoted admirers, remarked that never had he met anyone with such ‘restless energy’:

The mainspring of his life’s work was the desire for improvement. This influence was magnetic and contagious and induced me to take up certain studies which otherwise I would have neglected. He sought at the close of each year to be able to answer satisfactorily the question ‘Am I richer in knowledge and good deeds than I was twelve months ago?’ Indeed, every evening he wished to look back on something attempted, something done, to the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow creatures.

In 1877 Blaubaum married Agnes Rebecca Cohen, daughter of Samuel [Henry] Cohen of East Melbourne and later of St Kilda, an official assignee of insolvent estates. Samuel Cohen was a Londoner whose family originated in Amersfoort, Holland, and was related to the Waley-Cohens, distinguished in Anglo-Jewry.

For the first few years of their married life the Blaubaums lived close to the synagogue in Charnwood Grove, St Kilda. Later, as their family increased in size, the Blaubaums moved to Mozart Street, and there the minister lived for the rest of his life. The Blaubaums had seven children. Two girls, Meta and Zilla, were followed by five boys: Athol, Hubert, Eric, Otto and Ivan. Mrs Blaubaum died in 1892, when the youngest child was still a baby. Blaubaum never remarried.

All his children were academically gifted and he sacrificed his own comfort in order to pay for their education. Meta, a piano student at Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, became a well-known accompanist and eventually married David Phillips of Dunedin. Zilla, who won a Melbourne University exhibition for French and German, went on to study medicine. She abandoned her course on her marriage in 1903 to Isidore Marks, dentist son of a former president of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation. Blaubaum’s sons, particularly the two eldest, excelled at Wesley and carried off a truly impressive number of prizes and scholarships. Athol was, in addition, a good sportsman and a member of the Wesley College football team. Blaubaum encouraged his children to pursue careers which would benefit humanity. Athol, Hubert and Ivan became doctors in Melbourne. Otto became a dentist in Launceston, Tasmania. Eric, who suffered from ill-health, worked for Michaelis-Hallenstein’s Dunedin branch, and was killed in France during the First World War.

Athol and Otto married out of Judaism and the entire male line of the Blaubaums ceased to be Jewish by the next generation. It was an ironical twist of fate for the descendants of a man who strove to make young Jews ‘proud of their lineage and conscious of their religion’ and who had declared that ‘we are not now so often exposed to the shame of seeing our men of intellect and ability abandon their inheritance for a mess of pottage.’ The situation was a salutary reminder of the fragile ties binding Jews to their heritage in Australia’s easy and tolerant society during the first half of the twentieth century.

Blaubaum was a staunch and outspoken believer in the equality of women, their right to social emancipation, higher education and economic independence.

It was in the Jewish Herald, the journal Blaubaum established in December 1879 and edited until his death, that his moral and intellectual greatness became apparent. He had been a passionate advocate of the abortive Colonial Jewish Times, which Moritz Michaelis and others had intended as a successor to the defunct Australian Israelite. Blaubaum was justifiably proud of the high journalistic reputation of the Jewish Herald.

Blaubaum’s strong, dogmatic personality brought him his share of opponents and detractors. The Jewish Herald conceded as much when, in an unattributed obituary for him, it observed that no man who ever lived was entirely free of enemies.

In 1902 Blaubaum’s health began to deteriorate. In 1903 he left Melbourne on a nine week vacation to Sydney, the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. His elder daughter Meta accompanied him. From each place on his route this diligent (and, as it proved, dying) man sent long, entertaining and informative articles back to Melbourne for inclusion in the Jewish Herald. They show that, ill as he was, his writing had lost none of its verve and vigour. These last offerings from Blaubaum’s pen are
marvellous social and historical documents. They give more than a tourist’s superficial impressions. They provide a vivid and valuable insight into Pacific life and administration at the turn of the century.

He returned from his travels refreshed and apparently cured. But his illness was more serious than his doctor imagined. He had an obstructive tumour of the bladder and in April 1904 was admitted to hospital where he underwent surgery. The operation was considered a success, but less than a fortnight afterwards, on 21 April 1904, Blaubaum died. Two days later he was buried beside his wife in St Kilda cemetery.

Blaubaum was only fifty-six when he died, and tributes arrived at St Kilda from Jewish communities throughout Australia.

Blaubaum’s anonymous obituarist wrote that even those who had crossed swords with him must agree that he was ‘a good man and a good Jew.’ Rabbi Abrahams recalled that Blaubaum’s ‘efforts were not showy or ostentatious, but modest, quiet and practical.’ Blaubaum’s lasting legacy was the Jewish Herald. Happily the quarter-century’s issued which he edited are still extant. They are an indispensable source for the history of Australian Jewry. They illustrate the timelessness of Judaism, and remind us that its adherents can communicate not only across continents but across centuries. They help us to understand ourselves, for their pages consider the sorts of problems and issues which our Jewish community is confronting today. The busy pen of Elias Blaubaum can still instruct and inspire.

Elias and Agnes had seven children:

Meta (____–____) in 1908 married David Phillips of Dunedin.
Zilla (1879–1972); in 1903 married a dentist, Isidore Jacob Marks (1877–1962), son of Solomon Marks (no relation).
Athol (____–____) became a doctor in Melbourne.
Hubert (1883–____) became a doctor in Melbourne; in 1911 married Telka Kate (1883–1935) daughter of Louis Hart (1849–1884) and Dinah née Levy (1860–1898). [Louis Hart was a brother of Alfred David Hart.]
Eric (1890–____) worked for Michaelis-Hallenstein’s Dunedin branch, and was killed in France during the First World War.
Otto (____–1904) became a dentist in Launceston.
Ivan (____–____) became a doctor in Melbourne; in 1920 married Lylie May Nelson, daughter of Solomon Nelson and Abigail née Sanders.

This group photograph—taken possibly on the 40th wedding anniversary of Alfred and Elizabeth Hart, at ‘Charnwood’ at St Kilda in 1918—depicts the following persons: (back row, standing) Hubert Blaubaum (a grandson of Samuel Henry Cohen and Eliza née Hyams); Arthur Isaac Cohen (son of Edward Aaron Cohen; married his first cousin Violet, daughter of William Cohen); Violet Cohen (daughter of William Cohen; married Arthur Isaac Cohen); Arthur Cohen (‘Little Arthur’, cousin of Elizabeth Hart née Cohen; son of George Cohen and Elizabeth née Davis. George was the child of Abraham Cohen and Sophia née Cohen and the twin brother of Henry Emanuel Cohen); Joyce Cohen (daughter of Arthur Cohen and Violet née Cohen; married ______ Kaye in 1919); John Jacobs (married Kate, daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen); Ted Hart (son of ______); Annie Cohen (daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen; married Montague Cohen); Montague Cohen (son of Simeon Cohen; married Annie Cohen, daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen); Muriel Hart (née Commens; married Rupert Hart, son of Alfred and Elizabeth); Rupert Hart (son of Alfred and Elizabeth; married Murial Commens); (front row, seated) Elizabeth Hart (daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen; married Alfred David Hart, son of Samuel Hart); Alfred David Hart (son of Samuel Hart; married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen); Kate Jacobs (daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen; married John Jacobs, son of ______); Alexander Marks (son of Caspar Marks; widower of Miriam, daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen); Benjamin (Bennie) Stanhope Cohen (son of Edward Aaron Cohen; married Edith Elizabeth Lumley, daughter of Edward Lumley).
Montague Cohen

Montague Cohen, the son of Simeon Cohen, married Henry’s grand-daughter Annie Cohen, the daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen and Rebecca (née Benjamin).

The following is distilled from *the Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 8, p.57.

Montague Cohen (1855–1931), lawyer and businessman, was born on 4 August 1855 at Collingwood, Melbourne, eldest child of Simeon Cohen, salesman and later merchant, from Devonshire, England, and his wife Esther, née Levi (Levy), from London. Educated by tutors and at Scotch College, Cohen studied law at the University of Melbourne. While serving articles he was a founder and secretary of a literary and debating society whose members included Alfred Deakin and Theodore Fink. After admission in 1878, Cohen joined P. D. Phillips as a partner. Seven years later he became a partner in Pavey, Wilson and Cohen (Pavey’s). He practiced as a solicitor but made rare, shrewd appearances as an advocate. The Law Institute of Victoria elected him president in 1903.

Cohen’s financial and political acumen led him to much business activity in the boom years, especially in the brewing and non-ferrous metals industries. He survived the 1890s depression although many associates became insolvent. The stabilisation of the liquor industry owed much to him: a director in the 1890s of the Foster Brewing Co. Ltd, in 1903–07, with C. L. Pinschof he negotiated the merger of the main Victorian breweries under the name of Carlton and United Breweries Ltd—and in 1925 a further combination took place, Cohen put the Brewers’ Association of Victoria on a sound footing; he was president of the Liquor Trades’ Defence Union of Victoria for many years and a member of its federal organisation. In 1887 he was a founder of the Swan Brewery C. Ltd in Perth and remained its chairman of directors for forty years.

Through A. J. F. de Bavay, who had been with Foster’s, Cohen became involved in the non-ferrous metals industry and, with W. L. Baillieu and other members of the Collins Street group, used personal funds to subsidise long-term research to develop the de Bavay flotation process. Cohen’s directorships included twelve major companies, among them Amalgamated Zinc (de Bavay’s) Ltd, and Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd.

On 23 February 1881 he had married Annie, daughter of Edward Cohen. She attended the Presbyterian Ladies College in 1879. ‘Mrs Monty’ was supported by her husband in her life work of organising and dispensing charity. Between 1897 and 1939 she served as committee-member, treasurer and, for nineteen years, president of the Victorian Infant Asylum (Berry Street Founding Hospital, East Melbourne), and was an energetic and forceful committee-member of the Melbourne District Nursing Society. Charitable to her fingertips, she never spoke of what she did; she went into the homes of people in trouble—an ‘angel on earth’, albeit a tiny, imperious and strong-willed angel. The couple maintained links with the Melbourne Jewish community. ‘Mrs Monty’ was at one time vice-president of the Melbourne Jewish Women’s Guild and occasionally worshipped with the Melbourne Hebrew congregation.

Cohen was a formidable man. A proficient pianist, he sometimes performed for charity. When young he played football and cricket and was a cross-country runner. Later he was a founder and trustee of the Amateur Sports Club of Victoria, and, as president of the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association, presented a shield to stimulate interest in the 10-mile (16 km) cross-country run. Cohen was generally respected for his attention to the realities of business and professional life and for his integrity. He died in Melbourne on 18 October 1931 and was buried in Melbourne general cemetery, survived by his wife and their one child, Harold. Cohen’s estate was sworn for probate at £131,074 in Victoria and £79,076 in South Australia. His portrait by Longstaff is held by the family.
Montague and Annie had only one child: 
**Harold Edward** (1881–1946). (See below)

### Alfred David Hart

Alfred David Hart (1850–1928), the son of Samuel Hart¹ and Harriet (née Benjamin), married,² at Melbourne, in 1878, his first cousin once removed, Henry Cohen’s granddaughter, Elizabeth (1852–1928), the daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen and Rebecca (née Benjamin).

Alfred Hart’s father Samuel Hart was an Englishman who settled in Adelaide as a wholesale merchant. Alfred was born in Adelaide.

Biography???

Alfred Hart’s mansion home, ‘Charnwood’, at St Kilda, stretched the entire length of Charnwood Grove which was then a gracious backwater and peaceful tree-laden haven of rest, quiet and opulence.³

Alfred David Hart, tobacco merchant and brewer, left an estate in Victoria valued at £205,654.⁴

[Does this Alfred David Hart have any connection to the David Hart whom James Simmons’ daughter Sarah (1832–90) married. She left an estate in NSW in 1890 valued at £234,495!]

Alfred and Elizabeth had four children:

- **Gladys** (1879–1944)⁵ in 1908 married Julius Theomin (1866–1932).

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1. Samuel Hart married Harriet née Benjamin (c.1838). They had five children: Rachel (1840–1911), in 1861 married Isaac Feldheim (c.1826–1903); Benjamin (1842–1906) unmarried; Caroline (1845–1940) unmarried; Louis (1849–1884), married Dinah Levy (1860–1898); and Alfred David (1850–1928), married Elizabeth Cohen (1852–1926). Samuel Hart died, aged 54, on 19 April 1867; Harriet Hart died, aged 66, on 20 August 1878.
Sigmond Hoffnung

Sigmond Hoffnung was one of the original three Executors and Trustees of Henry Cohen’s estate. Sigmond married Henry’s grand-daughter Elizabeth, the daughter of Solomon Marks and Hannah (née Cohen), on 26 May 1858.¹

‘Comparable to David Cohen and Company in size and turnover was the wholesale enterprise established in Sydney in 1852 by a young migrant from England, Polish-born Sigmond Hoffnung (1830–1904). Armed with a loan from an astute merchant back home who supplied wares attractive to colonists in the grip of gold fever, Hoffnung found that business thrived. His London-based backer and supplier entered into partnership, and the firm expanded steadily, its success assured by the availability to Australians with consumer goods nor readily available from domestic sources. In 1870 the firm moved into large new premises in Pitt Street which it occupied for many years, and in 1871 it filled a vacuum in the Queensland market be opening a branch in Brisbane. Hoffnungs was registered as a public company in 1902.

‘Sigmond Hoffnung retired from active control of the firm in 1889 and returned to England …’


Sigmond and Elizabeth had one child:

**Solomon Sydney Benjamin** (1862–____) was born² at Sydney on 13 September 1862. He married Violet, the eldest daughter of Sir Julian Goldsmid, 3rd and last Baronet, P.C., M.P.

References:

Biography of Sigmond Hoffnung in *ADB*, vol. 4 1851–1890, pp.408–09.


Solomon Joseph


‘Another prominent Jewish resident of Tamworth was Solomon Joseph, a member of an Anglo-Jewish family prominent in the middle of the 18th century. He was born in 1834 and came to Melbourne in 1859. In 1867 he married Caroline, the sister of Nathan Cohen. He subsequently lived in Dunedin, New Zealand, returning to Melbourne in 1871, where he edited the *Australian Israelite*. In 1875 he came to Sydney, and in 1882 moved to Tamworth, where he became proprietor and editor of the *Tamworth News*, a bi-weekly paper which had been founded ten years previously.’³

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¹ Notes of Henry Robert Cohen.
² NSW Birth 1862 vol.136 #884 and 1862 #1894.
///Research Solomon’s brother Henry’s child, Albert Joseph (News + Observer = Leader); and Albert’s son Harold Joseph (newspaper and local television)

Solomon and Caroline had ___ children:

**Abraham** (1869–1912); married Naida Barnett (____–____) daughter of Nahum Barnett (1856–1931) and Ada née Marks.

**Hannah** (1872–1940); married Octave Levy (1870–1949) the youngest son of Lewis Wolfe Levy.

References:
- [???]Solomon Joseph’s Diary presented by W. S. Jessop to the Mitchell Library.

**Alexander Marks**

Henry Cohen’s grand-daughter Miriam, the daughter of Edward Aaron Cohen and Rebecca (née Benjamin), married Alexander Marks, the son of Caspar Marks, an early Melbourne pioneer.

A youth of 21, Alexander Marks set up business in Yokohama. This was in 1859, after more than two centuries of deliberate seclusion by the Japanese. When Japan was virtually forced by the Powers to open her ports to trade and to foreign residents Alexander Marks, a Jew born in the United States, saw an opportunity and took it.

Although born in the United States he was raised for the most part in Australia and was to become one of Australia’s most enterprising and public-spirited citizens. More should be known about him. Following the loss of two of his brothers on SS *Julia* in a trading venture between Yokohama and the Marianas, he returned to Melbourne. Here he continued in trade with Japan until his death in 1919. From what G. E. (‘Chinese’) Morrison had to say about him he had considerable business acumen: he described him as ‘worth £80,000 in Melbourne and having much property in Yokohama.’ This did not stop him from occupying a public position for 17 years: he was Honorary Consul for Japan for the Australian colonies from 1879 to 1896. From 1896, when a career consul was appointed in Townsville he was also Honorary Consul for Japan in Victoria. He retired in 1902 after a strenuous consular career.

His consular responsibilities were no sinecure. In the earlier period he and his Japanese clerk handled a large volume of despatches to and from him. These despatches interestingly survive him in the archives of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Not only did he travel extensively on his consular duties, including tours of Thursday Island, but he learned the Japanese language which enabled him to act as an interpreter in court proceedings. In many ways his interest in Japanese–Australian relationships were remarkable. It might reasonably be thought that his consular activities were merely extra-curricular because of his trading activities, but this was not so. It is doubtful whether more than a portion of Alexander Marks’ trading activities in Yokohama were in Australia: Australian imports to Japan were virtually non-existent until wool shipments began in the 1890s.
Alexander served on the Committee of the *Jewish Herald* Association. He served as a Vice-President of the Melbourne Hospital, and acted as a Commissioner on the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition. On a visit to Tokyo he received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor. Alexander Marks died on 21 May 1919.

Alexander and Miriam had ___ children:

- **Gwen** (____–____) who married Septimus Levy, the son of Lewis Wolfe Levy.
- **Reginald** (____–____) who married Irene Cohen, the daughter of George Judah Cohen and Rebecca née Levy.


### Great-grand-children

**Sophia (Zoë) Benjamin**

Zoë Benjamin, (1882–1962) was involved in education, becoming well-known for her work with pre-school children.

She was born in Adelaide in 1882, the daughter of Philip Benjamin, a journalist, and Minnie (née Cohen), and named Sophia, but was known later always as Zoë. She had two brothers and the family moved to Sydney when she was six years old. She was educated with her cousins [Gladys Marks among them] by tutors and governesses. Her father encouraged her to read widely, especially history, philosophy and the arts, and these interests she retained throughout her life, giving her the background to inspire her own students later.

She trained as a kindergarten teacher and began introducing daily free-play periods into kindergartens whose programmes had previously been very structured.

A tiny little lady with curly hair, the greater part of her life was spent in the interests of tiny children. For twenty-five years she was associated with the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers’ Training College as lecturer and as Vice-Principal. Her subjects included psychology, general history and literature, philosophy, history and principles of education, handwork, games and singing.

Zoë Benjamin founded the Australian Kindergarten Magazine in 1910, continuing as its editor for many years and she initiated the Kindergarten Graduates’ Association. In 1924 she established the Kindergarten Mothers’ Union ‘to enrich the lives’ of inner-city mothers and, as its President, she organised handwork exhibitions, a dramatic society and in 1930 a holiday home at Thirroul (south of Sydney) for children from underprivileged children.

In the wider community she used to give lectures and tutor in Child Study subjects for Adult Education classes. She wrote several books on these topics and her pamphlet ‘Education for Parenthood’ (published in 1944) was described by Professor Tasman Lovell as ‘almost perfect in both form and matter’ with the reader ‘borne along by an unfailing clarity of exposition’. For the ABC she presented talks under the general title of ‘You and Your Family’: these gave parents expert advice on play needs and behaviour patterns of pre-school children and were published. At the time Zoë Benjamin was associated with Kindergarten of the Air (from 1943) this was a unique programme.

Throughout her life she maintained her interest in the arts. She enjoyed attending the theatre—and also gardening and sewing.

After her death in 1962, aged eighty, the Zoë Benjamin Memorial Fund was established and presented to the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales. Her teachings and her work for pre-school children lives on.

Brigadier the Hon. Harold Edward Cohen, CMG, CBE, DSO, VD

Henry Cohen’s great-grand-son Harold Edward Cohen (1881–1946) was the only child of Montague Cohen and Annie (née Cohen).

The following is distilled from the Obituary in AJHS Journal, Vol. 2, Pt. 6, December 1946, p.359:

Harold Cohen was born in Melbourne in 1881, where his father, Montague Cohen, was an early colonist, and his mother a well-known communal worker. His grand-father, the Hon. Edward Cohen, born in London, was the first Victorian Jewish Cabinet Minister.

Showing considerable promise in his student days at Xavier College and Melbourne University, where he won several prizes, he commenced practice as a solicitor and joined the family firm of Pavey, Wilson & Cohen.

In the Great War, 1914–18, he was decorated on several occasions, being awarded the C.M.G. and D.S.O. and twice mentioned in despatches. He was twice wounded in action. He served in the Middle East in the recent conflict as an Honorary Red Cross Commissioner. On his return to Australia he was appointed Director of Amenities, and subsequently Deputy Adjutant-General of the A.M.F.

In civil life he had a distinguished record. He was always keenly interested in the welfare of his co-religionists, and was a member of the St Kilda congregation. As President of the Victorian Jewish Returned Soldiers’ Circle from 1937–46, he frequently argued the Jewish case in returned soldiers’ circles. He was Chairman of the Victorian Jewish Returned and ex-Servicemen’s Association at the time of his death.

In the Victorian Legislative Assembly the following tribute was paid to the deceased, and the motion put to the House was moved by Mr Cain, Premier and Treasurer, and supported by Mr McDonald (Shepparton), Mr Hollway (Ballarat), Mr Lemmon (Williamstown), Lieut.-Col. Dennett (Caulfield), Mr Michaelis (St Kilda), and the Speaker of the House, Sir George Knox:

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Brigadier the Honorable Harold Edward Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D., and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Council for the Electoral Province of Melbourne South from 22nd June, 1929, to 12th February, 1935; member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Caulfield from 2nd March, 1935, to 29th April, 1943; Honorary Minister from 1932 to 1935; and Minister of Public Instruction and Solicitor-General in 1935.

Brigadier Cohen’s death at the comparatively early age of 64 is a loss which Australia and Australian Jewry can ill afford. He leaves a widow, well known in the local community, two sons and two daughters.

Geoffrey (____–____) ...........
(Sir) Edward (____–____) ........
________________ (____–____) ...........
________________ (____–____) ...........

Biography: ADB vol. 8, p.53.]
Ida Cohen, MBE

Ida Cohen (1867–1970), of Tamworth, died peacefully on Saturday 24 April 1970 at St Elmo Private Hospital, Tamworth, NSW. She was 102. At the funeral, which took place at Tamworth cemetery, Rabbi Harkaway, of Parramatta, emphasises her long life of devoted service to her family, the community and mankind. In particular she rendered untiring efforts on behalf of the Red Cross for which she received due recognition in gaining the well deserved honour of the M.B.E.

Ida Cohen was born in Tamworth on 27 August 1867. She was the eldest daughter of Nathan Cohen (1842–1910) by his first wife, Esther, the daughter of Solomon Solomon. Nathan Cohen’s family was remarkable and gifted, and many of the qualities of its vigour, enterprise and integrity were vested in Ida Cohen. Her great-grand-father, Emanuel Hyam Cohen, was the founder of the Jewish community in Brighton, England, and of his sons may be noted Levy Emanuel Cohen (1796–1840) was a journalist and newspaper proprietor of controversial views. Levy Cohen’s younger brother, Abraham Cohen (1812–74) came to Australia about 1836 where he married [Sophia Cohen] and settled to produce a large family. Apart from Nathan Cohen, who was an important personality in Tamworth and was twice Mayor of the town, the family included the Hon. Henry Emanuel Cohen (1840–1912), a prominent lawyer and politician, Fanny Cohen (1839–1912) who married Sir Benjamin Benjamin, of Melbourne, and Caroline Cohen (1844–1923) who married another journalist and newspaper proprietor, Solomon Joseph.

Ida Cohen lived the whole of her long life-span in Tamworth and witnessed the unfolding of the story of Tamworth Jewry which is typical of so many communities of Australian country towns. In the days of development and pioneering Jewish enterprise contributed much to the area and a small but vigorous communal life existed. Over the years the Jewish population drifted away, mainly to the State capitals and became absorbed by intermarriage and assimilation. Mrs Cohen was one of the last remaining Jewish residents in Tamworth. Apart from her work for the Red Cross she supported many causes both Jewish and non-Jewish and was a member of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

In 1901 she married her first cousin Victor Cohen (son of George Cohen [the twin of Henry Emanuel]) [and Elizabeth (née Davis)], and they had three sons: George, Nathan (d.1962) and Alan.


Elma Cohen

Henry Cohen’s great-grand-daughter, Elma Hart, (1883–1946) married (later Sir) Samuel Sydney Cohen (1869–1948), the son of George Judah Cohen and Rebecca née Levy. Elma’s parents were Alfred David Hart (1850–1928) and Elizabeth née Cohen (1852–1926).

The following notes were supplied by Dinah Harvey, a granddaughter of Samuel and Elma Cohen:

Although I have not been able to find the registration of the birth of my grandmother, there is no doubt about either the date or place of her birth. Elma was born in Melbourne on 1 July 1882 the third child of Alfred David Hart and
Elizabeth née Cohen. Exactly where the family was living at the time is not yet known.

Alfred Hart was the fifth child of Samuel Hart and Harriet née Benjamin and was born in Adelaide. Following the death of her husband in 1867, Harriet went to live in Melbourne where she died in 1878. Alfred Hart was in the tobacco business. As yet I have no details of how he started in the business but he became the Managing Director of Cameron Brothers. Some information about the tobacco business can be found in ‘The Tobacco Worker’ by Alleyn Best, the history of the Victorian Branch of the Tobacco Workers Union. Cameron Bros eventually became part of the British Australian Tobacco Company, now Amatil.

Alfred and Elizabeth Hart were finally to live in a very large house named ‘Charnwood’ in St Kilda. This house has now been demolished and it is probable that the St Kilda Synagogue is on land that was once part of their property.

The first school attended by Elma was a convent but following her intimation that she thought of becoming a nun her parents sent her to the Presbyterian Ladies College, described by Henry Handel Richardson in ‘The Getting of Wisdom’ and ‘Myself When Young’. During her time there Elma wrote a short poem named ‘Ten Little Australian Girls’, illustrated by Una Le Soeuf a fellow pupil. In the possession of a grand-daughter is a book of poems she wrote in 1899 when the family was living in a house ‘Verona’ in Clarendon Street, East Melbourne.¹ The introductory poem shows that she hoped to have her poems printed:

If I could only get in print!
The bashful maiden sighed,
For though I’d like a satin best,
I would be satisfied.

One of the poems, The War Drum, was published, perhaps in the school magazine. In a different era Elma would probably have put her literary talent to good use.

On 18 April 1901, at the age of eighteen, Elma married Samuel Sydney Cohen and went to live in Newcastle where Sam worked in the family company of David Cohen and Co. They lived at ‘Halcyon’, 51 Newcomen Street and it was here that their three children were born. This house is now the office of Rankin and Nathan, Solicitors.

In about 1916 the family moved to Sydney and for some years lived at ‘Rosemont’, Ocean Street, Woollahra. This house was built by Alexander Campbell in 1857 at which time the property was bounded by Trelawney and Ocean Streets and Edgecliff Road. It was later well known as the home of Sir Charles and Lady Lloyd Jones. Although the land had been subdivided by the time the Cohen family bought it the gracious old house was still surrounded by a lovely garden and the children were able to keep their horses in nearby stables.² The family later moved to 89 Ocean Street, a property adjoining the boundary of ‘Rosemont’. This house, named ‘Harle’ by previous owners, was still quite a grand house and is now broken up into six apartments. It is spoken of in ‘I Can Hear the Horses’ by Phillipa (née Allen) a member of the well-known legal family, Allen.

The family travelled to Europe every few years and just before the First World War George was enrolled at Repton, an English Public School for his secondary education. Soon after the war broke out and it was not until 1919 that the family was reunited. I have a photograph of the family on board the ship bringing them all home to Australia.

Although the family always had plenty of domestic help, Elma was a good cook and competent housekeeper. Menus were written up each week and given to the cook. I well remember going with Granny to the store-room where the supplies of groceries were kept. On her wrist Granny wore a gold bracelet with a gold key attached. This opened her desk drawer and possibly the store-room as well. It was very decorative and as she wore it most of the time she did not have to worry about losing it. The house ran on ‘oiled wheels’.

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¹ I am not certain if ‘Verona’ was a house in the same street as ‘Clarendon’ the home of the Edward Cohen family, or, if ‘Verona’ was actually that house which is now the Mercy Hospital.

² See ‘Some Houses & People of New South Wales’ G Nesta Griffiths, pub. Ure Smith Publication.
Elma’s social life was probably set around the busy life of her husband, but she loved playing both bridge and poker. One of her great interests was her collection of blue Sèvres china that was displayed in the large drawing room at 89.

Samuel Sydney Cohen was born in Sydney on 11 March 1869, the son of George Judah Cohen and his wife Rebecca (née Levy). As a young man he commenced work in the family company David Cohen & Co, wholesale grocers and owners of several country stores. He became the Chairman of Directors of this company and an associated company J A Bull & Co. His other commercial interests included the Australian Gaslight Company, Paul & Gray Ltd., Bennie S Cohen & Son, Lloyds insurance brokers (later called Edward Lumley), Tooth & Co, Newcastle and Hunter River S S Co, Paget Manufacturing Co, Central Trading Co, Sydney Exchange Co. As the President of the N.S.W. Kindergarten Union he was very keen on the need to assist the less well off of the community. He was also involved with the affairs of the Jewish community and was one of the founders of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society. He was first Treasurer and then President of the Board of Management of the Great Synagogue and gave liberally to the fund for the erection of the New South Wales Jewish War Memorial. He was an office bearer in the Citizens Reform Association. Recognition of his services to the community came when he was created a Knight Bachelor in 1937.

With outbreak of war in 1939 and the departure of many of the family for overseas, three of her grandchildren went to live with Elma and Sam. I loved this time, probably because I was indulged by Granny, but also as it gave me the opportunity to get to know them really well. Grandad often read me children’s versions of stories from the Bible, and although he was no doubt regretful, he was not at all critical of the fact that some of his grandchildren would not follow the Jewish faith. My nurse, always called Nanny, also lived there with us and in the school holidays my brother Christopher and cousin Sam returned from boarding school to be with us. We often spent these holidays at Bowral where in the 1920’s Elma and Sam had built a house they named ‘Callooa’.

This property was situated on the hillside of Mt Gibraltar, and encompassed about 25 acres. Included in the property were two smaller houses fronting Cliff Street, sometimes rented and sometimes occupied by other members of the family. There was also a cottage for the property manager who milked the cow, looked after the chickens and worked in the vegetable garden. This meant that our meals at ‘Callooa’ were delicious and fresh.

It was quite a novelty to see the milk being separated and the butter made. My favourite breakfast was kidneys cooked by Granny, followed by hot buttered toast liberally spread with homemade blackberry jam and cream! The surrounding garden was lovely and full of places for grandchildren to ride their bikes, play hide and seek and ride the horses. I also remember a goat that we were a little nervous of.

In 1941 and part of 1942, the other grandchildren, Penny and Primrose Moss joined Sam, Crick and me at ‘Callooa’. Granny, fearful of the possible bombing by the Japanese, even built an air raid shelter in the side of a hill. She took her responsibilities as grandparent seriously and worried about us constantly.

During World War II Granny was very involved with the Australian Comforts Fund where she spent much time parceling up extra clothes and food parcels for the troops overseas. Both of her sons were in the Middle East and this caused her much concern and I have always felt this contributed to her early death, although no doubt the fact that she was a heavy smoker did not help. Her other communal activities included being a member of the Committee of the Lady Gowrie Child Centre and the Women’s Auxiliary of the Great Synagogue.

When Granny died suddenly in 1946 we were all quite shocked as although all adults seem old to young children, most of our aunts and uncles lived to a great age. Her tombstone is in pink and black marble, her favourite colour combination and used by her in the decoration of her bedroom and bathroom at 89 Ocean Street. She is buried in the Jewish Section of Rookwood Cemetery and her husband Sam who died on 27 August 1948 is buried beside her.

1. An association of citizens involved with the Sydney City Council.
Gladys Marks

Henry Cohen’s great-grand-daughter, Gladys Marks (1883–1970) had the distinction of being the first woman to hold a lectureship in the Faculty of Arts (in 1921) and the first to act as a professor in any Australian University—and that was in 1929.

She was born in Brisbane in 1883, one of five children. Her paternal grandfather [Solomon Marks], a schoolmaster, arrived in Tasmania from England in 1837 [sic]. His son, Benjamin Francis, Gladys’s father, was born in Tasmania [sic]¹ and he married [his first cousin] Jane Matilda Cohen [daughter of Abraham Cohen and Sophia (née Cohen)], usually known as ‘Jenny’, an energetic and philanthropic woman who served on a number of charity committees. Gladys was a cousin of Sophia (Zoë) Benjamin.

Gladys and her sister were educated by governesses and tutors. As well as traditional lessons she learned French, German and music, becoming a talented amateur violinist. Her mother recognised her academic potential and insisted that she should continue her studies at university despite some opposition from her father.

Having gained her Batchelor of Arts degree in 1908, at first she taught French and German in schools. Then she went to Paris to study at the Sorbonne. She joined Sydney University French staff in 1916 as an Acting Lecturer and retired in 1943 due to ill-health.

She was a patron of the Arts, with a particular interest in music and was associated with both Musica Viva and the ABC Subscribers’ committees. The Jewish community remembers especially her support for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hebrew University. She was a founder and executive committee member of the Business and Professional Women’s Club and kept her interest in their activities.

Gladys Marks was in Antwerp in Belgium when the First World War erupted and she wrote an evocative eye-witness account describing the mobilisation and families farewelling their menfolk. She and her American friend were hustled out of Belgium to England and there she helped refugees from Belgium and the families of servicemen. On her return to Australia she was asked to speak at meetings and rallies.

She enjoyed travelling and went overseas several times for study and conferences. She was almost caught by world war a second time in 1938. In her autobiographical note she wrote:

‘I returned to France and was in Brittany when war seemed imminent in summer of 1938. I hurried to Paris, found our travelling scholar still waiting for money … and took him with me to London, arriving there the day before Chamberlain came back waving his ‘Peace in Our Time’ paper. We returned to Paris. A niece joined me there early in 1939 … but by June we were certain that war would come in the summer, so we decided to come home.’

While she was overseas in 1914 she had been an Australian delegate to the Conference of the International Council of Women. Later she was one of the founders of the Sydney University Women Graduates’ Association, of which she was first Honorary Secretary and then President. She was the President of the Australian Federation of University Women from 1931–34. The ‘Gladys Marks Room’ at Manning House, Sydney University, was named in her honour and after her death in 1970 a Memorial Scholarship was established by the New South Wales Association of University

¹. Solomon Marks married Hannah (née Cohen) at Sydney on 3 August 1836 (NSW Marriage 1836 Vol. 135 #18). Benjamin Francis Marks was born at Sydney (NSW Birth 1846 Vol. 136 #250).
Women Graduates: this provides interest-free loans for mature age women students to enable them to complete their courses at Sydney University.


Other persons of interest

Archibald Clunes Innes

Born in 1800 at Thrumster, Caithness, Scotland, Archibald Clunes Innes obtained a commission as an ensign in the 3rd Regiment, The Buffs. He obtained his Captain’s commission in 1821 and on 20 July 1822, with 160 convicts and guard, Captain Innes sailed from Sheerness for Australia on board the Eliza, and arrived in Sydney on 22 November, after a 140 day voyage.

In November 1826 Innes was appointed Commandant at Port Macquarie. Recalled to Sydney to become Brigade Major, he later resigned his commission and became Police Magistrate at Parramatta.

Innes married Margaret Macleay (1802–1858), a daughter of the then Colonial Secretary, Alexander Macleay, in 1829, and in 1830 returned to Port Macquarie as Police Magistrate and took up 2560 acres at Lake Burrawan, later renamed Lake Innes, and obtained numerous government contracts to supply provisions to the penal settlement. His wife also had 1280 acres as a ‘marriage portion’ on the Wilson River at Crotty’s Plains. With the cheap convict labour provided by the government, they built Lake Innes Cottage, a residence with 22 ‘apartments’. They were renowned throughout New South Wales for their hospitality. Besides the mansion Innes built at Lake Innes, he owned hotels, wool stores and many cattle and sheep properties throughout the region. A man of wide interests, he was the most influential of the early settlers in the district.

In 1842 Innes’ sister Barbara married George Macleay, a son of Alexander Macleay.

Innes’ niece, Annabella (the daughter of his brother George who died in 1839), lived at Lake Innes from April to November 1839 and again from January 1843 to [May?] 1848, and wrote a series of diaries—now held by the Port Macquarie Historical Society—which record many facets of her early life in the region. They have been published under the title Annabella Boswell’s Journal.

Innes survived the economic depression of the early 1840s, but with the cessation of transportation, meaning no more cheap labour, he finally became bankrupt in 1852.

Innes was appointed assistant gold commissioner at Hanging Rock on the Peel River, in succession to Edward Hargraves. William Telfer’s manuscript records an experience Innes had during this period: ‘Even the Commissioner Major Innes was bailed up by two armed men as he was returning from Tamworth. One man presented a gun at him, told him to bail up, when he spoke the other man recognised him and said to his mate that it is the Major, don’t shoot. He said by G[od] it is the Major. They begged his pardon. He made them throw away their gun and come with him to the police camp. He promised them he would not prosecute them on condition they would lead an honest life, giving each man a licence to work on the goldfield where they done well and always behaved themselves afterwards. The commissioner kept this very quiet but one of the men told his mates about the kind-hearted old Major. He was a grand old gentleman not many like him at the time.’

1. From an album of portraits, mainly of New South Wales officials, c.1836 by W.H. Fernyhough.
As Telfer’s story of his being bailed up indicates, Innes had acquired a reputation for exceptional leniency, much to the dissatisfaction of his superiors. It was probably most fortunate for Henry Cohen and his family that he was able to serve his time assigned to Innes at Port Macquarie. In 1853 Innes and his wife moved to Newcastle where he became Police Magistrate. He died there on 29 August 1857. Margaret died there in 1858.

[Biography in *ADB*, vol. 2, 1788–1850, pp.3–4.]

**Jacob Frankel¹**

Most of the following is distilled from an article written by Jacob Frankel’s son by his second marriage, Philip Frankel (1863–1943), and read before the Society by his sister-in-law, Mrs William L. Cohen, on 8 July 1943, and published in *AJHS Journal*, Vol. 1, Pt. 10, December 1943:

Jacob Frankel was a Hebrew scholar. Soon after his arrival in England, he came under the notice of Chief Rabbi Solomon Hirschell, at whose home he recited the customary prayers after the demise of his [Jacob’s] mother.

The Chief Rabbi invited him to study for the ministry. He did so and later received an appointment in England to a congregation.

He resigned, however, after three years’ service, from the position, and entered upon a business career, choosing Greenwich and the surrounding towns as his field of operations. In 1834, at Greenwich, he was married to Miss Miriam Moses [b.1815; daughter of Moses? Moses?].

His wife’s brother, Elias Moses, visited England from Australia in 1841 and persuaded him to migrate with his wife and family to Australia. Accordingly, in June 1842, he sailed from England with his wife and three children [Mary (b.1836), Esther (b.1838) and Simeon (1840–1937)] in the sailing ship Calcutta. His destination was Hobart, Tasmania, where they disembarked in October of the same year. There he took part in the founding of the Hobart Hebrew congregation.

In 1847 he suffered misfortune by the death of his wife, and his sister-in-law, Mrs Elias [Julia] Moses, of Sydney, took over the care of the two younger children. One of these, Simeon [the other, Esther], was later for about thirty years the Secretary of the Great Synagogue in Sydney. The eldest daughter, Mary, was also taken care of by another brother [D. M. H. Moses] residing in Sydney.

In 1849 Jacob made a voyage to San Francisco, and after his arrival he acted as an officiant in the Hebrew congregation ‘Scheareth Israel.’ About 1852 he decided to return to Australia, and, on hearing of his intended departure, the congregants presented him with a memento in the form of a gold medal bearing a Hebrew inscription on the one side and on the reverse a translation in English, reading as follows:

Presented to Jacob Frankel, Esq., by the Congregation Scheareth Israel as a mark of esteem and respect for his kindness in rendering his services as Hassan, Tishri 5612, San Francisco, October 1852.

On his return to Australia Jacob started in business in Melbourne, but later he assisted the Rev. Moses Rintel at the Bourke Street Synagogue. By that gentleman he was married to Mary Marks [b.1833]. He left Melbourne again in 1861 and went to Dunedin in New Zealand, where their son Philip was born in 1863; but he remained there only till 1864, when he removed to Wellington.

Jacob died on 30 August 1899, and Mary died on 14 December 1899. Both are buried in the Jewish Cemetery at Wellington, New Zealand.

[Philip Frankel married two sisters, Minnie and Estella Myra, daughters of his much older step-sister, Mary Frankel, who had, in 1854, married Lewis Cohen, the fifth son of Henry Cohen. And, Simeon Frankel married Anne, a daughter of Samuel Henry Cohen, the eldest son of Henry Cohen.]

Other references:

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James Simmons

Henry Cohen’s brother-in-law, James Sim(m)ons (c1797–1849), at 16 years of age was convicted and sentenced to death in 1813 for stealing jewellery from no less a personage than the Dowager Marchioness of Devonshire (see Old Bailey transcript appended). His father Nathan was convicted of receiving and sentenced transportation for 14 years. Needless to say James did not suffer death and was instead transported. James ultimately became a publican, auctioneer and eventually the owner of a well-stocked Sydney store. His brother Joseph came to Sydney as a free settler.

In 1821 James married Agnes Thorley.

James Simmons was elected a Sydney alderman in 1848.¹

James Simmons died Coburg in 1849.

James and Sarah had seven children: Joseph; David (d.1850 at Tamworth aged 17 years³); Isaac (d.1857 at Sydney aged 21 years⁴); Sarah (1832–90), married David Hart; Frances …; Agnes (d.1880 at Paddington) …; Elizabeth (1835–1925), married Gustav Wangenheim.

James left an estate valued at £15,000.⁶ To his sister Elizabeth (Henry Cohen’s wife) he left £25; to his sister Frances, wife of Elias Solomon of London, provided she did not arrive in the colony for seven years, he left an annuity of £40; to his sister Ann, wife of Henry Israel, under the same conditions, he left an annuity of £40.⁷

In 1890 his daughter Sarah, widow of David Hart, left an estate in NSW valued at £234,495.⁸ His daughter, Elizabeth, widow of Gustav Wangenheim, left an estate in NSW in 1925 valued at £155,123.⁹


Samuel Cohen

A son of Barnett and Sierlah (née Levy) Samuel Cohen was born 14 July 1812 at Lambeth, England and died 16 September 1861 at Sydney.

He arrived in Australia in 1831. In 1836, was the founder and senior partner of David Cohen and Company, general merchants of Sydney, Maitland and Newcastle. The firm acquired stores throughout the Hunter River and New England districts. Was a businessman when he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1860. Around 1846, lived in Maitland and took L.W. Levy into his business partnership. (Levy later became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the sixth and seventh Parliaments and member of the Legislative Council between 1880–1885).

Samuel married Rachel Nathan on 23 August 1837 in Sydney and they had six children, four sons and two daughters.

He was a Member of the Board of York Street Synagogue, 1855–1859, and a founder and first President, Macquarie Street Synagogue, 1859.

Member for Morpeth in the NSW Legislative Assembly 7 August 1860 to 10 November 1860.¹⁰

Samuel lived his later years in Sydney. Samuel had brothers Lewis, George, Abraham and David, all of whom came out to Australia.


². NSW Death 1849 vol. 136 #949.
³. NSW Death 1850 vol. 136 #56.
⁴. NSW Death 1857 vol. 136 #150.
⁵. NSW Death 1880 #3815.
⁷. Notes on James’ Will by Tel Johns.
¹⁰. Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales 1856–1901.
Lewis Wolfe Levy

The following is Lewis Wolfe Levy’s entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

LEVY, LEWIS WOLFE (1815–1885), businessman and politician, was born on 13 June 1815 in London, son of Benjamin Wolfe Levy, merchant, and his wife Martha, née Levy. In 1840 he migrated to Sydney and soon went into business at Maitland. In 1846 he moved to Tamworth where he bought land and established a flourishing general store. About this time he became a partner with his cousins, Samuel and David Cohen, in the Maitland mercantile firm, David Cohen & Co., and was the driving force behind the firm’s expansion after he returned to Maitland in 1854. He moved to Sydney in 1862 but remained active in the firm’s affairs. His business reputation grew steadily and from the mid-1870s he occupied an increasing number of commercial posts, becoming chairman of the Hunter River New Steam Navigation Co. and a director of the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Co., the Australian Gaslight Co., the United Insurance Co., the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney and the Australasian Steam Navigation Co. He also acquired pastoral interests and by 1871 held Yarraman on the Liverpool Plains and was a partner in seven other runs.

In 1871 Levy was elected to the Legislative Assembly for Liverpool Plains. His disapproval of the Martin–Robertson coalition led him into opposition until he retired early in 1872. In August 1874 he was returned for West Maitland, and with some reservations supported the government of Henry Parkes who had backed his candidacy and promised flood mitigation works in the district. However, Levy retired only three months later to devote more time to business matters. In parliament his chief concern had been to hold Parkes to his promise of flood works and, although he was a free trader with vague commitments to land and electoral reform, he displayed scant interest in matters of general policy. He had also advocated an elective Legislative Council but accepted appointment to it in 1880 as a representative of the Jewish community. He defended the council’s rights and privileges and remained a member until 1885.

Levy’s inability to give much time to politics stemmed partly from his active involvement with charitable, educational and religious institutions. He was a director of Prince Alfred Hospital and the Industrial Blind Institution, served on the board of the Sydney Hebrew School and was president of the Macquarie Street Synagogue in 1862–74 and from 1876 to 1877 when it closed. He then travelled overseas with his wife Julia, daughter of Samuel Solomon, whom he had married in 1845. He died on 25 January 1885, survived by his wife, eight sons and five of their seven daughters. He was buried in the Hebrew section of Rookwood cemetery. Although self-made, plain spoken and occasionally short tempered, he was widely respected and sincerely mourned. His estate, sworn for probate at over £245,000, was left mostly to his relations and friends and charitable institutions received £3875.

George Judah Cohen

The following is George Judah Cohen’s entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

COHEN, GEORGE JUDAH (1842–1937), banker and financier, was born on 27 April 1842 in Sydney, eldest son of Samuel Cohen and his wife Rachel, née Nathan; both came from old-established Anglo-Jewish families. Samuel had migrated from London in the Resource, reaching Sydney on 19 April 1834, and, with his brother David and later his cousin Lewis Wolfe Levy, established the wholesale firm David Cohen & Co. in Sydney and Maitland in 1836; he represented Morpeth in the Legislative Assembly in 1860 and was a founder of the breakaway Macquarie Street Synagogue.

In 1865 he took charge of the firm’s Maitland office. He was active in local affairs—chairman of the Maitland Gas Co., treasurer of the Northern Jockey Club, and helped the School of Arts, one of the finest in the colony. On 19 February 1868 in Sydney he married Rebecca (Rè) Levy (d.1933), daughter of his father’s partner, in the presence of (Sir) Saul Samuel and J. G. Raphael.
With the coming of rail transport, he established a branch of the firm in Newcastle, but in 1879 moved back to Sydney.

Cohen was a financial wizard and an indefatigable worker. His acumen was soon recognized and in 1885 he succeeded his father-in-law as a director of the United Insurance Co. Ltd, the Australian Gas Light Co. and the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney. As deputy chairman of the bank in 1891 and 1893–1901 and chairman in 1892–93 and 1901–33, he helped to guide it through the banking crisis of 1893 and the depressions of the 1890s and early 1930s; he celebrated fifty years as a director of the United Insurance Co. and was chairman in 1904–35; he was also chairman of the Australian Gas Light Co. in 1887–1932, Tooth & Co. Ltd in 1889–1929 and of the Sydney Exchange Co. (Royal Exchange of Sydney) almost continuously from 1887 to 1935. In 1912 David Cohen & Co. Ltd was registered as a public company.

At ‘no time did get-rich-quick schemes’ appeal to Cohen. If he had any vanity, it was for his good name in financial circles. He had a profound insight into the whole Australian economy—as early as 1903, whilst warning against excessive borrowing by State governments, he urged that all their debts should be taken over by the Commonwealth. Many inducements were offered to him to enter politics, but he dreaded the interference with the happiness of his family life, and his dislike of publicity was a byword in financial circles. In 1898 he refused a seat in the Legislative Council because the offer was conditional on his support of the Australasian Federation enabling bill. Nevertheless he supported such patriotic causes as the New South Wales contingents to the Sudan and South African wars, the Queen’s Jubilee Fund in 1887 and World War I comforts funds; he also gave liberally and privately to charities.

In Maitland Cohen had been the leader of the small Jewish community. On his return to Sydney in 1861 he had joined the Macquarie Street Synagogue and in 1869 became a trustee. A Jewish patriarch, he soon became the acknowledged leader of the community after the two congregations had joined again in the Great Synagogue in 1878. During fifteen separate years between 1883 and 1921 he was president of its board of management and was made a life member of the board. He also held high office in such organizations as the New South Wales Board of Jewish Education, the Jewish Literary and Debating Society of Sydney and the local Anglo-Jewish Association. His wife was an active charity worker, especially for the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and the Infants’ Home, Ashfield, and was a council-member of Women’s College, University of Sydney. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 1928.

Cohen was a member of the Union Club from 1901, where his silk hat distinguished him from other members; he also enjoyed racing and was a member of the Australian Jockey Club. He furnished his house, “Engadine”, Elizabeth Bay, with antique furniture, European pictures and rare china and glass; one of his few hobbies was coin collecting.

Survived by five sons, including Sir Samuel Sydney Cohen, and two daughters, Cohen died at “Engadine” on 22 January 1937 and was buried in the Jewish section of Rookwood cemetery. His estate was valued for probate at £510,910. After his death, his family gave his valuable collection of coins to the National Art Gallery of New South Wales and £1000 to the University of Sydney to provide for the George Judah Cohen Memorial Lectureship.

A portrait of him by George Lambert hangs in the head office of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney; two other portraits commissioned by the United Insurance Co. from R. H. Jerrold-Nathan are held by the Royal Exchange and Tooth & Co.

Sir Samuel Sydney Cohen

The following is Samuel Sydney Cohen’s entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

COHEN, Sir SAMUEL SYDNEY (1869–1948), businessman, was born on 11 March 1869 at Darlinghurst, Sydney, eldest son of native-born parents George Judah Cohen and his wife Rebecca, daughter of L. W. Levy. Brought up at West Maitland, he was educated there and at Royston College, Sydney. At 16 he joined the family company David Cohen & Co. and soon became a partner. He later visited China, Japan, the United States of America, England and Europe on behalf of the firm and on his return became manager of its Newcastle branch. On 18 April 1901 at her father’s
house in East Melbourne he married with Jewish rites Elma (d.1946), daughter of Alfred Hart, a merchant.

Cohen soon became prominent in the Newcastle district—he was president of Royal Newcastle Hospital board, a founder and president of the board of management of the Newcastle Synagogue, a member of the board of the Newcastle Club, a committee-member of the Newcastle Jockey Club and patron of innumerable cricket and football clubs. He was also vice-consul for Greece from March 1905, ‘anything but a sinecure’, and later acting-consul in Sydney until 1923. He declined several requests to stand for parliament.

In 1915 the Cohens returned to Sydney and later lived at Ocean Street, Woollahra. His business acumen was soon recognized: he was sometime chairman of David Cohen & Co. Ltd, the Australian Gas Light Co. (1939–47), John McGrath Ltd (1919–39), agents for Chevrolet and Cadillac cars, Paul & Gray Ltd, ship’s-chandlers, the Newcastle and Hunter Steamship Co. Ltd (1944–47) and North Western General Stores Ltd (1948); he was also a director of Tooth & Co. Ltd in 1934–48, and the Royal Exchange of Sydney in 1936–48. As chairman of the Australian Gas Light Co. during World War II he contended with frequent shortages of coal causing threats to the gas supply. In 1947 he organized the merger between the Clyde Engineering Co. Ltd and Paul & Gray Ltd.

Concerned about the low standard of local government administration, Cohen was a foundation executive-member of the Citizens Reform Association from 1921, and until 1936 shared its presidency with Sir Arthur Cocks and Sir James Murdoch. As president of the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales he worked for the extension of free kindergartens in industrial areas. He was also a director and vice-president of Sydney Hospital, vice-president of the British Orphans Adoption Society, honorary treasurer in 1930–41 of the Women’s College Council, University of Sydney, a trustee of the Queen’s Jubilee Fund and an executive-member of the Lord Mayor’s Patriotic and War Fund; he served on the board of the Big Brother Movement and the Council of Social Service of New South Wales. He was knighted in the coronation honours of 1937.

A devout Jew, Cohen sat on the board of management of the Great Synagogue from 1915 and was made a life member in 1939 when he resigned after seven years as president. He was founding president in 1937 of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society and gave liberally to the New South Wales Jewish War Memorial. From the mid-1930s he was deeply disturbed about Nazi treatment of Jews in Germany: he founded and was president of the Australian Fund for German Refugees, which by 1938 had helped 600 men and women to come to Australia where work had been found for them. He was also patron of the local Mizrahi Palestine Committee, a worldwide organization for the return of Palestine as a Jewish homeland.

As a young man Cohen was dark with a luxuriant moustache; in his later years he was clean shaven and totally bald. A horse-lover, he rode in Centennial Park and at his farm at Bowral. He was a member of the Australian Jockey Club and raced many horses. A voracious reader, he enjoyed the theatre. He frequently visited England and was a member of the Devonshire Club in London, as well as the Warrigal and New South Wales clubs, Sydney, and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Sir Samuel died in St Luke’s Hospital on 27 August 1948 and was buried in the Jewish section of Rookwood cemetery. He was survived by a daughter, and by two sons who served with distinction in World War II and took the name Cullen in mid-1941 as a precaution in the event of being captured by the Germans. His estate was valued for probate at £85,012.
Appendices

When was Henry born?

Jessop’s Tree indicates Henry’s life span as 1786–1867.
The Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper states Henry was (in May 1833) aged 43, which indicates a Year of Birth c.1790.
The 1837 General Muster of Convicts states age as 48, indicating a YoB c.1789.
The ‘Recommendations for Conditional Pardons’ states YoB as 1790.
His Conditional Pardon certificate states his YoB as 1790.
Elizabeth’s Death Certificate states she was married in 1809 and Henry’s D.C. states he was married at ‘20 years of age’. That indicates a YoB c.1790. Henry’s D.C. and his grave headstone state his age at death as 81, suggesting YoB c.1786. The informant for both deaths was son-in-law Abraham Cohen; he left the still-alive third son, Philip, off Henry’s death certificate.
In lieu of more positive documentary evidence it appears more likely that Henry was born in 1790 and that he was 77 years of age when he died in 1867.

How many children?

How many children did Henry and Elizabeth have, and what were their names?
The Trial transcript indicates that, at May 1833, there were 10 children, and the entry in the Indents of Convict Ships states that at that time Henry had 6 male and 4 female children.
Of the ten children we then know the Cohens had at the time, The Brothers passenger list names only nine—four girls: ‘Mrs [Nancy] Simmons [née Cohen], Miss Sophia Cohen, Miss Ann [sic] Cohen, Miss Caroline Cohen’, and five boys: ‘Master Edward Cohen, Master Samuel Cohen, Master Phillip [sic] Cohen, Master Joseph Cohen, Master Lewis Cohen.’ The list does not mention the sixth male child, William (born c.1832)—probably a babe-in-arms was not counted. And, there is no mention of Hannah or of Jessop’s ‘Sarah’.
The family tree ‘ACII—Cohen of Paddington’ researched by William Jessop of New Jersey, USA, names a total of 12 children for Henry—including the two daughters last born at Port Macquarie: ‘Sophia (1816–82); Hannah; Sarah (d.1866); Samuel (1821–99); Edward (1822–77); Nancy (d.1860); Philip (1825–98); Joseph (1826–93); William (1830–67[sic]); Lewis (1831–1903); Frances (1834–84); Jane (1837–1867[sic])’; and includes ‘Caroline (d.1881)’ as a sister of Henry.
Henry had a daughter named Caroline. Caroline married Arthur Isaac Nathan. Arthur Nathan died in London. He pre-deceased his wife Caroline and our Henry, and Arthur’s death notice in the Sydney Morning Herald, 21 October 1863, states that he was the ‘son in law of Henry Cohen Esq of this city.’ Caroline is also named as a daughter in Henry’s Will. Her death notice in the London Times states she died 19 March 1881 in her 54th year, so that she was born c.1827 (although this birth date does not tally with the order of mention in Henry’s Will). Also, Stuart Cohen’s research indicates that Caroline’s Hebrew name was ‘Yetala Bas Zwei Ha Cohen’ (ie, daughter of Henry) not ‘Bas Natan’ (ie, daughter of Nathan) as she would have been if she was Henry’s sister.
Jessop’s Tree does not mention an ‘Ann’, but it does include Hannah and William. ‘Sarah / d.1866 / unmarried’ is another matter.
‘Ann’ of The Brothers passenger list is probably Hannah.
I believe that Jessop’s ‘Sarah’ must be a daughter of some other Henry Cohen. Except for the ‘d.1866’ she could have been a granddaughter, ie, a daughter of Abraham and Sophia or Samuel Henry and Eliza. Both of these couples had daughters named Sarah, both born in 1847, and both died unmarried, but both were still alive well after 1866. (Abraham and Sophia’s daughter Sarah died in 1904, and Samuel and Eliza’s Sarah was named as an executor of Samuel’s estate in 1896.).
Also, Jessop’s birth dates place William as the fifth son and Lewis as the sixth. William definitely was the sixth male child (see marriage notice, SMH, 13 September 1853, and the order of names in Henry’s D.C. and Will). Also, Nancy is way out of chronological order between Edward and Philip: if this was correct she would have been about nine years of age when she married Joseph Simmons in 1832. Her obituary notice states that she was the ‘eldest child’ (born c.1812).
In 1836, when an attempt was made to have Henry reassigned from Archibald Innes at Port Macquarie to James Simmons in Sydney, James stated, on 26 August, that Henry then had 11 children.

1. Indents of Convict Ships, 1833 (AONSW: X635 / Reel 907 / Fiche 706; p.201); transcription appended.
Elizabeth’s Death Certificate, certified by son-in-law Abraham Cohen, states that at the time of her death, in 1866, there were: ‘6 boys and 5 girls living, and 1 boy and 2 girls deceased’—a total of 14!

Who were the living? On the basis of Henry’s Will (dated October 1866) they were [6 boys]: Samuel, Edward, Philip, Joseph, Lewis, William, [and 5 girls:] Sophia, Hannah, Caroline, Frances, and Jane. (Somehow Abraham managed to omit the still-living Philip from Henry’s Death Certificate.)

Who then were the deceased? As the known boys are accounted for, the ‘1 boy’ must be a pre-1833 infantile death. The ‘2 girls’ must be Nancy [Simmons] and the mysterious ‘Sarah’ or—if ‘Sarah’ is in fact a grand-child or some other’s child—another pre-1833 infantile death.

The sum of the various records seems to indicate that the 12 children who survived to maturity were, in birth order: Nancy (Simmons), Sophia (Cohen), Hannah (Marks), Samuel Henry, Edward Aaron, Philip, Joseph, Caroline (Nathan), Lewis, William, Frances (Solomon), and Jane (Levy).

Edgware Road, Paddington, Middlesex (1790–1830)


Paddington was in the early years of the nineteenth century the most distant village completely united to London. Fifty years earlier it was already joined to the capital by a long line of buildings on the east side of Edgware Road, and in 1783, on a map of London by Carington Bowles, Edgware Road north of the New Road, now called Marylebone Road, figures under the name of Paddington, although the village itself was situated to the west of Edgware Road.

As recently as 1820 Paddington, although joined to the metropolis, still possessed many rural spots which appeared as secluded as though they had been a great distance from the town. The small population of Paddington was wholly absorbed in agriculture; although they lived at so short a distance from the two rich towns of London and Westminster, they made no greater advances in civilization than those who lived in the remotest village in England.

Opposite the Marble Arch is the junction of Oxford Street with Edgware Road, and here stood the Tyburn Gate until 1829. Its site is marked by a stone tablet near the entrance to Hyde Park. Although the entire east side of Edgware Road from Hyde Park to Paddington had been covered with streets and buildings at the dawn of the nineteenth century, no building operations of any importance were commenced on the west side until about 1820. Thus Paddington formed for many years the outer limit of the metropolis, and as late as 1830 was still regarded by many people as a rustic village.

But although Edgware Road itself remained unbuilt on the west side between Paddington village and Hyde Park, a village somewhat resembling the unsightly bungalow growths … had arisen in the fields a short distance to the west of Edgware Road. Thus Lysons, writing of Paddington in 1794, says that, this parish being chiefly church land, there had been but little increase of buildings till about 1790, since which time nearly one hundred small wooden houses had been erected a little north of Tyburn turnpike.

These cottages were let at from £7 to £12 per annum, and were inhabited principally by journeymen artificers who worked in London, forming with their families a colony of about six hundred persons. This colony of cottages, built nearly opposite George Street, … was called Tomlin’s New Town. After 1816, as a result of a Building Act obtained by the Bishop of London, these journeymen artificers had to vacate this land in order to make way for the construction of Connought Terrace and better houses for the rich. During the winter evenings the muddy roads which led to these cottages were in total darkness. No provision had of course been made for the effective drainage or sanitary arrangements of these cottages, built in the open fields and occupied as fast as they were completed. They were sought after by the poor as a kind of country retreat, but were in fact breeding centres of disease, filth, and misery …

In 1795 there were still upwards of 1,100 acres of grass-land in Paddington, of which only eighty-five were arable or garden land, and for a long time the tenants of the Bishop of London’s estate at Paddington were as celebrated for the quality and quantity of their milk as they are now for the number and the size of their houses. Within the short space of twenty years a city of palaces had sprung up on the Bishop’s Estate, and one of our leading railways, the Great Western, had opened its terminus here, from which were carried to and from this great city a larger number of human beings in one year than could be found in all England only a short time before …

The Paddington Canal, which commences at the dock at the back of Paddington Station, was opened in 1801 and joins the Grand Junction canal at Bull Bridge, in the vicinity of Northwood, in Middlesex …

On the opening day, 10 July 1801, no less than twenty thousand people came to Paddington to welcome the mighty men who had so altered this hitherto quiet village. Unfortunately, as time went on, the banks of this canal were used for stowing not only dirt and ashes, but the filth of half London, which was brought to ‘stinking Paddington’, as it was then nicknamed.
Public conveyances from Paddington to the City were first started at the beginning of the nineteenth century by a Mr Miles with his pair-horse coaches. The journey to Holburn Bars was performed by them in slightly over three hours, the charge for each outside passenger being two shillings, and the inside ones three. The first omnibuses were started in 1829 by Mr Shillibeer, and the aristocracy of Paddington Green were quite shocked at the disgrace this brought to the parish, and petitioned the Vestry to rid them of the nuisance.

Old Bailey ‘Proceedings’
The following text about the Old Bailey is courtesy of Tim Hitchcock and Robert Shoemaker, 'Gender in the Proceedings', Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, 17 June 2003) from whence one can search the transcripts of Old Bailey trials from 1674 to (currently) 1834.

The jury trial, which can be traced back to the middle ages, is often celebrated as the cornerstone of English liberty, but trials in this period contained few of the protections against wrongful convictions which exist today. Trials were quick, with lawyers rarely present, and, since there was not a fully developed law of evidence, prosecutors, judges, and jurors had more power and flexibility than they do today. Basically the trial involved a confrontation between the prosecutor, normally the victim of the crime, and the defendant, in which the defendant was expected to explain away the evidence presented against them (witnesses also testified on both sides). Although contemporaries thought these procedures were reasonable methods of determining guilt and innocence, from a modern point of view they arguably tended to disadvantage defendants.

The Proceedings contain accounts of trials which took place at the Old Bailey. The crimes tried were mostly felonies (predominantly theft), but also include some of the most serious misdemeanours. The first published collection of trials at the Old Bailey dates from 1674, and from 1678 accounts of the trials at each session (meeting of the Court) at the Old Bailey were regularly published. Inexpensive, and targeted initially at a popular rather than a legal audience, the Proceedings were produced shortly after the conclusion of each sessions and were a commercial success. With few exceptions, this periodical was regularly published each time the sessions met (eight times a year) for 160 years. In 1834 it changed its name, but publication continued until 1913.

Origins
Accounts of the lives and exploits of notorious criminals were published as ballads, chap-books, and broadsides from the sixteenth century. These inexpensive publications were designed to entertain, and they reached a wide market. In the 1670s, perhaps as a result of growing concern about crime, there was an explosion of crime literature, including criminal biographies, the ‘last dying speeches’ of executed criminals, Ordinary of Newgate’s Accounts of the lives of criminals, and accounts of trials.

The first surviving published accounts of groups of trials which occurred at the Old Bailey (as opposed to accounts of notable single trials) were from the April sessions of 1674. Entitled News from Newgate: or an exact and true accompt of the most remarkable tryals of several notorious malefactors ... in the Old Baily, this account, like many early editions of the Proceedings, described only some of the trials which took place at that sessions. As this pamphlet concluded, there were also “divers other tryals which would be too tedious to insert”.

Editions survive for most sessions in the late 1670s, but were produced by a number of different publishers. On occasion, as in January 1676, two competing accounts were published of the same session. These early Proceedings were similar to the earlier chapbooks with their sensationalist and judgemental approach, and they were very selective in the trials they chose to publish.

Early History, 1678–1729
In October 1678 the first edition which described all the trials at a single session was published. In December 1678 a particularly detailed account was published with a more objective tone. Perhaps in recognition of what such publications could achieve, and in order to have some control over their content, in January 1679 the Court of Aldermen in London ordered that accounts of proceedings at the Old Bailey could only be published with the approval of the Lord Mayor and the other justices present (this was reiterated in 1684). At this point a more or less standard title was adopted: The Proceedings of the King’s Commission of the Peace and Oyer and Terminer, and Gaol-Delivery
of Newgate, held for the City of London and the County of Middlesex, at Justice-Hall, in the Old Bailey. With some minor variations, this title remained unchanged for decades. Although sometimes referred to as the ‘Old Bailey Sessions Papers’, this project has adopted the short title of Old Bailey Proceedings, or just Proceedings.

Until the late eighteenth century printers had to pay an annual fee to the Lord Mayor for the privilege of printing the Proceedings.

Early editions of the Proceedings were between four and nine pages long, included brief summaries of trials, and were not necessarily comprehensive. Nonetheless, by the mid 1680s most trials seem to have been reported. Around 1712 the Proceedings began to include some verbatim reports, especially in trials which were thought to be salacious, amusing, or otherwise entertaining.

Although there is no evidence that publication was interrupted, it is not clear whether publication was constant throughout the period from 1678 to 1714. Whereas editions survive for the vast majority of sessions between April 1674 and 1698, between 1699 and 1714 editions are missing for two-thirds of the sessions, and there are three years for which no Proceedings survive: 1701, 1705, and 1706.

By the early eighteenth century, the Proceedings were an established periodical, read enthusiastically by Londoners seeking news, moral instruction, or entertainment. Louis de Muralt, a French visitor, reported in a letter published in 1726 but written up to thirty years earlier, that ‘the printed accounts … are in the opinion of many people one of the most diverting things a man can read in London’. An example of their ‘diverting’ content was the publication in 1725 of a phonetic account of the testimony of a drunken Irishman, which earned a censure from the City authorities for the ‘lewd and indecent manner’ in which the trial was reported.

Commercial Expansion, 1729–1778

In December 1729 the publisher introduced a number of changes to the format in order to make the Proceedings more attractive to readers, in the face of competition from daily newspapers and published collections of trials. They were expanded to 24 pages, included yearly indexes, cross-referencing between trials, had advertisements in the back, and, most importantly, included much greater use of verbatim accounts of the testimony of prosecutors, witnesses, and defendants, as well as judges’ comments and questions (this was facilitated by the use of shorthand notetakers). Ordinary trials were still treated very briefly, in order to allow more space for the more racy crimes, including murders, sexual crimes, and thefts from the person (which usually involved prostitutes).

From the 1730s, the Proceedings for each sessions began to be issued in two parts as a way of further increasing the publisher’s profits. Despite attempts by the City to stop the practice the number of parts per sessions increased over the years to three, four, and eventually five per sessions in the 1770s. Although still a commercial enterprise, there is evidence that the Proceedings were viewed as providing a legal record of the court proceedings. Evidence of their growing respectability can also be seen in the decreasing number of advertisements (with the exception of those for the shorthand writers who took notes at the trials) in the 1740s.

Official Publication, 1778–1834

By the late eighteenth century, public interest in the lives of ordinary criminals was waning, and other types of literature about crime, such as criminal biographies, lost popularity. At the same time, as accounts of what happened at the Old Bailey were reported in increasing detail in the newspapers, the Proceedings came to provide much less sexually explicit testimony, and the number of trials to report increased significantly. For all these reasons the Proceedings ceased to be commercially viable and eventually, in 1787, a subsidy had to be paid by the City to ensure continued publication (earlier, publishers had paid the City for the privilege of publishing the Proceedings).

In 1775, the City began to take a greater interest in controlling the content of the Proceedings, and in 1778 it demanded that the Proceedings should provide a ‘true, fair, and perfect narrative’ of all the trials, and the publisher was required to supply 320 free copies of the Proceedings to City officials. In part, this was because they were being used by the City’s Recorder as a formal record. They formed the basis of the Recorder’s report to the King concerning which of the convicts sen-
tenced to death should be pardoned. Moreover, at a time of social instability, the City was concerned to demonstrate to the public the fairness and impartiality of judicial procedures at the Old Bailey.

As a result of this increased scrutiny and new demands from the City, the length of the trial reports increased and some of the practices publishers used to sell copies were abandoned. The practice of providing considerable detail of the more entertaining crimes, while providing only brief details of others, ceased, and all trials now received more or less uniform treatment. Similarly, the practice of dividing reports of particularly exciting trials between two parts of the Proceedings (in order to increase sales) was discontinued. From this point the Proceedings became more or less an official publication of the City, though they continued to be produced by a commercial publisher. They were provided less for the purpose of entertainment than as a means of keeping an accurate public record of events which transpired in the courtroom. But their commercial viability was increasingly undermined by their length and detail, and in the 1780s publishers began to target the Proceedings at a legal audience, taking advantage of the increasing number of lawyers present at the Old Bailey.

In 1834, the Old Bailey changed its name to the Central Criminal Court, and the jurisdiction of the court was enlarged. The title of the Proceedings shifted accordingly to the Proceedings of the Central Criminal Court. Under this title the Proceedings continued to be published until April 1913.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Edward Phillips)—18 Sept 1811


(The Cohens mentioned in this matter are very probably our Henry and Elizabeth as this Henry is a tailor and slop-seller and he and his wife Elizabeth have one child with another on the way at this time [ours were married in 1809 when Henry was 20 and Elizabeth 18]. Regardless, it makes interesting reading.)

780. EDWARD PHILLIPS was indicted for that he, on the 31st of July, feloniously did set fire to a house belonging to Thomas Lane, with intent to injure him. And

OTHER COUNTS for like offence, only varying the manner of charging them.

The case was stated by Mr. Gurney.

HENRY COHEN. I live at 69, High-street, Shadwell, in the parish of St. Paul, Shadwell. I am a tailor and slop-seller.

Q. Did the prisoner live next door to you, No. 70—A. He did, he is a dealer in potatoes.

Q. Beyond him does a person live of the name of Andrews—A. Yes.

Q. On the 31st of July were you the last person in your house that went to bed—A. Yes, and it was always my custom to rake the fire out myself, and see that every thing was safe. I went to bed about half past ten or later, it was not eleven.

Q. What does your family consist of—A. Myself, my wife, and one child, my maid servant and shopman; the shopman slept in the shop.

Q. Your wife was far advanced in pregnancy—A. Yes, she has since been brought to bed. The prisoner’s family consisted of himself, his wife, and two children, the oldest about six or seven years old.

Q. On the 31st of July, between twelve and one o’clock, were you awoke—A. I was, by a smoke or smother of fire. I sleep in the back room, up one pair of stairs.

Q. Mr. Cohen, look at that plan, and tell me whether that plan correctly describes Mr. Phillips’s house, and yours—A. Yes, that is as near as possible.

Q. You told me that you awoke with a great smell of fire—A. Yes, I came out of bed, I found the room all of a smoke; I went down stairs, I found the flames coming through a crevice from between the lath and plaster that came into my passage from a partition between my house and Mr. Phillips’s, there is no brick wall to these houses, there is nothing but lath and plaster on my side, and waistcoat on Mr. Phillips’s side.

Q. And the flames were coming through the lath and plaster in your house—A. Yes, between the skirting board and the floor. When I found the flames coming at the foot of the stairs I called the servant first, because she had a child in the two pair, and my wife I called all to come down stairs; I had nothing on but my shirt. I went to the street door, I called the boy, he was sleeping under the counter. I opened the street door, there was a watchman there, I gave the alarm there was a fire; the watchman sprang his rattle, then there were some more watchmen came up. The watchman that I called first, he went in doors with me, his name is
Street; he then asked me if I could get any water; I told him I would give him what I had; I believe it was three or four pails; I gave him all I had.

Q. After he had threwed some water and damped the fire did he break in the plaster—A. Yes, with his cutlass, and with his foot he kicked it away; he threw more water in, and I went out, and made further alarm.

Q. After you had used what water you had what further did you do—A. I went into the yard. We have only one yard to the two houses, the back of his house is in my yard.

Q. So that you could get at the back door of Phillip's house—A. Yes. I knocked as loud as I could, I could not get any answer; I then went to the prisoner's street door, there were several people knocking there before I came out, and then as I was not answered; I tried to save what property I had; I was still in my shirt; I kept moving my things, and therefore did not attend to what was going on in the street; the watchman still continued knocking with their sticks at Philip's door full five minutes.

Q. Where you in the street when Phillips came to the window—A. Yes, I was crossing the road, he opened the sash and stood at the window; I saw him with a silk handkerchief round his neck, and something like a dark or black waistcoat, and lower I could not see.

COURT. Had he his coat—A. No.

Mr. Gurney. Was that the room that he and his wife slept in—A. Yes.

Q. His chamber is over the shop door where they were making this noise—A. Yes. When he appeared at the window he asked what was the matter, some of the people cried out, come down stairs, your house is a fire. He said, I cannot come down for the smoke, get me a ladder. There was a great many people about the door, they said break the door open. I heard many people say if he could not get down for the smoke he must know that the house was on fire without asking that question The people upon that cried out, break open the door; some of them broke open the pannel of the door before the engine came, then with a crow the door was broken open. I then got to the house, I looked in and saw Mr. Phillips in the shop; in a minute after the door was broken open. I saw him first, and his wife about a minute afterwards.

Q. How was he with respect to his dress—A. He was completely dressed and all his clothes on exactly as I saw him the day before, and his wife was completely dressed.

Q. The door that was broken open by the mob was the shop door in the street—A. Yes, the private door was not broken open.

Q. The fire was I believe put out in a short time—A. Yes, I suppose it was not above ten minutes.

Q. After the fire was put out do you remember any person asking the prisoner whether he was insured—A. Yes, he said he was insured some years at the Phoenix; he did not say to what amount. Some gentlemen there asked him how his skirting-board, came to be off, he said the rats had knawed it off, and it had been so some time. I remember his being asked how the fire began. He said it must be in the next house, meaning mine. He made use of abusive language to me, and said that I had lighted coals and shavings in my coal-hole.

Q. In point of fact that was not true—A. No, I had no lighted shavings in my coal-hole.

Q. In a short time afterwards did your servant shew you some turpentine chips—A. Yes. I gave them to Mr. Harmer.

JAMES HARMER. Q. Did you receive these chips of the witness—A. I did, I have kept them ever since.

Mr. Cohen. I received them of my servant girl, I was standing at the door, I asked Mr. Phillips how the turpentine chips came there meaning where the fire was; he said, you must have put it there; I had not; I never had a bit of that sort of stuff in my house.

Q. Before the watchman cut that plastering away to extinguish the fire had you any place to put them in there—A. There was not a hole to put my finger in.

Q. Were you present when the firemen shewed the prisoner some rags—A. I was. They called me in and asked me if they were mine; they asked Phillips, he said they were not his; the fireman came and asked me, I told them I had no such thing in the house. Mr. Phillips then said if they are not yours I suppose they must be mine.

Q. Are you the sole occupier of the house you live in—A. I am. I hold the lease under Mr. Thomas Lane, I pay my rent to him.

Mr. Alley. You are a salesman—you deal in shoes and old clothes—A. I seldom deal in old clothes, but if I buy them I sell them again.

Q. You deal in new and old clothes—you need not be ashamed of it—A. I am not ashamed of it.

Q. You have lived two or three years next door to the defendant—A. About two years.

Q. There is a passage between your house and the defendant's—A. I do not understand you.

Mr. Gurney. There is a private entry into your house—A. Yes.

Mr. Alley. Your man slept in the shop—A. He did, he is here.

Q. When you discovered the smoke you said you ran down stairs and alarmed your own family—A. Yes.
Q. It is very natural you should, and after that you went and alarmed your neighbour—A. Yes, I did.
Q. And it was after that about four or five minutes that you saw him at the window—A. Yes.
Q. You of course were a great deal agitated, you cannot say correctly to the time—A. No. It was long enough to wake him if he was asleep.
Q. That depends upon how a man might sleep—When the watchman came you and he forced your way into the passage and endeavoured to force down the lath and plaster in order to extinguish the fire—A. I did not touch it; the watchman did it. I was there at the time.
Q. You have said there was lath and plaster on your side, and wainscot of his side, was not the inside of his place covered over with paper—A. The bottom part of his parlour is wainscot, it comes up as high as the paper.
Q. Above that was there anything but paper, and under that canvas—A. I did not see any canvas.
Q. The next morning you went to the police office—A. I never went to any police office before Mr. Harmer took me, that was a week after.
Q. Was there any examination until the week after—A. No. there was not.
Q. The prisoner attended, did not he—A. He was fetched by an officer.
Q. You said he was fetched by an officer, you would have us infer from that that he was brought against his consent—A. I know an officer fetched him. I do not know whether he came against his consent.
Q. He remained in his own house a week, so that he might have run away if he had been so disposed—A. Yes.
Q. Then he was a week at home before he went to the office—A. It was some days; I cannot say it was a week.
Mr. Gurney. Was any part of your house burned—A. There was the joists began to be burned in my one pair of stairs back room; the boards were beginning to burn, and that was just under the head of my bed.
ELIZABETH COHEN. I am the wife of Henry Cohen. I was awoke as well as my husband by the smell of this fire; we both awoke together; the room was in a great smoke.
Q. Did your husband get out of bed and go down stairs—A. He did; I went out of the room door and perceived the flames. I could see them from my staircase.
Q. Did these flames proceed from the partition of your house and Mr. Phillips’s—A. It proceeded through the skirting board, it was breaking through at that place. I ran up stairs and called the servant to bring the child down, she came down directly. Afterwards I ran down stairs and stood at the street door. I did not stop to dress myself. I desired the servant to carry the child to a place of safety, and to come back to help us to save our property.
Q. Did you endeavour to save what property you could. I did not move any property, I stood at the street door to see that no person should take any thing away.
Q. After you came down stairs was there any knocking at Mr. Phillips’s door—A. Yes, there was a great knocking.
Q. How long did that knocking last before Mr. Phillips opened the window—A. I should imagine near five minutes.
Q. Was the noise considerable—A. The noise was very great, there were people from two dozen houses off they had carelessly put on their clothes and come there.
Q. Was the noise in your judgement loud enough to wake the soundest sleeper before Mr. Phillips came—A. I think it was.
Q. Had you yourself any knowledge whatever by what means the fire took place—A. I could partly guess.
Q. Could it have taken place at your house—A. No, it could have not.
SAMUEL NATHAN. Q. You are in the service of Mr. Cohen—A. I was then, I slept underneath the counter in the shop.
Q. Did your master awake you—A. Yes; I opened the door, and went into the street. Mr. Cohen and me went out together; Mr. Cohen gave the alarm to the watchmen; the watchman came in and endeavoured to put the fire out; I saw Mr. Cohen go first to Mr. Phillips’s back door and call Mr. Phillips, he had no answer, he went to the front door.
Q. Did other people join in making a noise at the front door—A. Yes. The rattle sprang first.
Q. At last did Phillips speak at the window—A. Yes, he opened the window and put his head out, he had no coat on, he had something dark about his body like a waistcoat, and a handkerchief round his neck, he asked what was the matter; some of the men made answer, come down, your house is a fire; he directly replied he could not come down for the smoke without going back to look, I went in doors.
Q. After that the people broke the door open and got in—A. Yes.
Q. When the people got in did you see Mr. Phillips in his shop—A. I did not. I was taking some things out of my master’s house, I afterwards saw Mrs. Phillips bring a large bundle over to Mrs. Hamert’s, I looked inside of it, it did not look like things gathered together in a hurry; they were wrapped up quite smooth as far as I could see.

Q. Did the fire take place in your master’s house—A. No, I am sure of that.

Mr. Alley. What time did you go to bed—A. Between ten and eleven; I am sure it was before eleven.

Q. You had a candle to go to bed—A. Yes, but Mr. Cohen always fetched it down himself. There was nothing of Mr. Cohen’s moved until we were alarmed.

Mr. Gurney. The fire was in the back part of the house—A. Yes.

Q. Therefore the fire was several feet from the shop—A. Yes.

JOHN STREET. I am a watchman.

Q. On the night of the 31st of July did Mr. Cohen come out of his house and give you an alarm—A. Yes, of fire; I went up directly. Another watchman sprang the rattle. I ran in and found the fire in Mr. Cohen’s passage, coming out of Mr. Phillips’s place, underneath the skirting board; I told him to fetch me some water, I threw it along the skirting board to damp the fire; I made a hole with my cutlass, told him to fetch me another; I kicked it with my foot, and got more water, I threw three or four pales into the hole.

Q. Before you made that hole was there any hole—A. None that I saw.

Q. Did Mr. Cohen go out and alarm Mr. Phillips’s house—A. He went out to get more water; I did not take notice, I kept in Mr. Cohen’s house entirely.

Q. Did you hear the noise made in calling to the prisoner—A. I did not. I minded my business.

HENRY BLAND. I am a watchman, my beat is a short distance from the prisoner’s house, I heard a rattle spring, and the alarm of fire. I ran to the engine house and got the engine. The engine house in one hundred yards or better from the prisoner’s house. I assisted in bringing the engine.

Q. When you came with the engine was the prisoners house open—A. It was not. There was about five or six people assembled; the first person that I saw was the officer of the night, he and I rapped at the door, he with his staff, and I with my large stick that I carry every night, we got no answer. I called to Thomas to give me the crow out of the engine.

Q. Was the knocking loud enough to wake any person—A. Yes, except by reason of the smoke a person might sleep sounder.

Q. If any person was dressing they must have heard you—A. Yes.

Q. Before you used a crow did any body break a pannel in—A. Yes, some person, but who it was I cannot tell. With the crow that I had in my hand I broke open the door.

Q. When you had got in the shop did you see the prisoner—A. I did not: It was two or three minutes after I was in the house, I went to the fire; the first thing when I got into the shop I could see it; the fire was in the back parlour, it seemed to me as if it was burning from the skirting board all the way up to the ceiling; with the crow I strove to knock part of it down, and after I found two butts of water in Mr. Phillips’s cellar. I went up stairs to get assistance to get the water up. I went then to get the other engine up. I was not in the house again after the fire was extinguished.

Q. After you had been in the house two or three minutes you saw the prisoner—A. I did, I saw him dressed; I asked him if his family were in the house; he said they were; I said for God’s sake, Mr. Phillips get them out as soon as possible. Thomas Elliott asked him why he did not come sooner; he said he could not get down sooner, there was so much smoke.

JOHN BATTERSBY. I am an oil and colourman, my house is directly opposite of the prisoners. The moment I heard the alarm of fire I came down in my shirt, and the first person that I saw in the street was Mr. Cohen in his shirt. I took some things of his to save.

Q. At this time were there any people in the street—A. I do not think there were, except the watchmen, they were knocking at the prisoner’s door, and the rattles were springing in the street,

Q. You I believe returned to your wife to make her hear—A. I did; the knocking continued till I returned.

Q. How long did the knocking continue—A. From five to ten minutes. I could not say exactly.

Q. I ask you from the noise that was made, and the calling and the springing of the rattles was it possible that they must be awake—A. I think they must; I was awake before that by the noise, at last he opened the one pair of stairs window; his first words were, what was the matter; the people said, come down, your house is a fire; he said I cannot for the smoke, he gave that answer directly.

COURT. Did the smoke issue out of the window—A. There was smoke in the room, it was not so much smoke as that. The watchmen were endeavouring to get the door open, a crow was obtained, and the door was broken open.
Q. How soon after the door had been opened and the watchmen entered did you see the prisoner—A. A short time, I stood near; it could not exceed three minutes the outside; he was dressed completely; I saw nothing wanting. I was present when Mr. Cohen asked him who put the turpentine chips where the fire had been; he replied, you must have put them there, you know you have lighted coals and shavings in your coal-hole. I directly got a candle and went and searched the coal-hole. I found nothing of the kind.

HANNAH ATKINSON. I am a servant to Mr. Cohen.

Q After the fire was extinguished did you search between the partition of the house, the lathe and plaster—A. I went to clean the rubbish away; I found some turpentine chips, I immediately gave them to my master.

Q. Had they been on fire—A. I cannot say. I found them between Mr. Phillips’s skirting and my master’s. They were in the state I found them.

Q. Was that the spot from whence the fire proceeded—A. It was.

Q. Of your knowledge had that fire proceeded from your master’s house at all—A. No.

Mr. Alley. That is as far as you knew, you did not set it on fire yourself—A. No.

Mr. Gurney. Was there any hole in that place before the opening was made to put the fire out—A. No, there was not.

BENJAMIN BERRY. Q. Were you in Mr. Cohen’s house when the maid-servant was clearing away the rubbish—A. Yes, I saw the maid find the turpentine chips, they were tucked down between the two skirting boards of Mr. Cohen’s house, and Mr. Phillips’s house.

THOMAS WHITE. I am a fireman of the Phoenix fire-office.

Q. At what time did you come to this fire—A. About half an hour after it. About two hours afterwards I searched, and found a piece of a towel among the rubbish between the skirting boards, it appeared to have been a towel, because it had a piece of tape to it; I asked Mr. Phillips if it belonged to him; he told me no. I then said, Mr. Cohen does this towel belong to you; he said, let me look; I gave it into his hand, he said it is canvas, I do not keep any canvas towels in my house. I found it within the skirting board that was loose when I came there, and the hole open. It burnt all the way up on Phillips’s side. I did not go into the other house. It was all open when I went in; the edges of the rafters had been on fire right up.

Q. Can you tell me whether the fire had come out of the floor of that room—A. Yes, I dare say a foot or ten inches. This is the skirting board. This is the inside of it.

Q. I observed the inside is all burnt and charred—A. It is so.

Q. If the skirting board had remained in its place could the floor have been burnt without that being burnt through—A. I do not think it could, it must have been pulled out at this end.

Q. It must have been out at least a foot at the time of the fire, or else it must have burnt the board through—A. I should think so.

Q. to Mr. Harmer. I believe you attended the examination of the prisoner—A. I saw him before the examination at his house; he admitted that the towel that had been found was his, that it had been hanging on a chair, or a table in the parlour.

GEORGE HORN. Q. After the fire did you rip up the boards of Mr. Cohen’s chamber—A. I did.

Q. In what state did you find the rafters and timber under the boards—A. They were not burnt at all. A beam in the passage was burnt which ran under the ceiling. I helped to put the fire out. I live the fourth house from the fire. The noise brought me to the fire.

Q. In what state were the boards in—A. They were hot, and a deal of steam came from them when I took them up.

RICHARD BOLTON. I live nearly opposite to the prisoner. A little after twelve o’clock I was awake by hearing a great noise in the neighbourhood, I immediately leaped out of bed and ran to the window; I saw a few people collected at Mr. Phillips’s house nearly opposite of me, I called out to know what was the matter, the watchman answered me the house was on fire; I told the watchman to go down the street to spring his rattle and alarm the neighbourhood. I went over as soon as I had dressed myself in a hurry, I went over, the door had been broken open, the engine had arrived; the first person I saw was Mr. Fletcher in the shop, and within half a minute I saw the prisoner, he and his wife appeared to be dressed, the fire was burning rather smartly.

Q. How soon was it extinguished—A. Perhaps in ten minutes, and after the fire was extinguished by the exertions of Mr. Fletcher, myself and others that assisted, it certainly struck me that it was not an accident I thought so then, I think so now, I expressed myself so then. The prisoner was a dealer in potatoes.

Q. You saw the stock he had and the household furniture—A. I did.
Q. In your judgement what was the utmost value of all the property in the house—A. Not more than thirty pounds; I saw but one bed, there were three or four chairs in the bed room, and two or three in the back parlour, the other rooms were empty.

THOMAS ANDREWS. I live at 71, next door to the prisoner on the other side to Mr. Cohen.

Q. On the night of the 31st were you alarmed by the smell of fire—A. My wife awoke first, she awoke me, I opened the back window on the ground floor, I smelled fire, it was then near one o’clock; my bed being backwards is against the private passage in the prisoner’s house, I heard Mr. Phillips’s voice, he was walking on the same floor, that is the ground floor.

Q. Did you hear any other person walking besides himself—A. I did not pay any attention, I heard him, I am quite sure of that, he appeared to me to be in the parlour behind the shop; I heard him about three minutes after I was alarmed.

Mr. Alley. You sleep on the ground floor in the back parlour—A. Yes.

Q. The fire that happened was not on the side of the house that you sleep, but on Cohen’s side—A. Yes.

Q. His door to go into the parlour is out of the shop is it not—A. I do not know the premises.

Q. How came you to swear as you have done, you have been swearing as if you had an accurate knowledge of this man’s place—A. I know my own.

Q. You said your wife awoke you, and in two or three minutes you heard the man walk about the room—A. Yes, and likewise talk.

Q. Was he talking loud—A. He talked as I heard him, I cannot say who he was talking to.

Q. You said it was his foot that was walking across the floor, so that you swear to a man’s foot, and swear to the description of premises you have never seen. Is your wife here—A. She is not, she knows more, she is indisposed.

Q. You have sworn, and mean to be believed, that you know it was the prisoner’s foot that was walking across the floor—A. I have sworn it.

Q. You shall swear why. had you a light in your room—A. Yes.

Q. You could not see through the wall—A. No.

Q. How do you expect to be believed that this man was walking across the floor—A. I swear to his voice.

Q. You cannot tell who he was talking to—A. No.

Mr. Gurney. You have been asked who he was talking to. Does the prisoner’s wife live with him—A. Always, I cannot say whether she was there that night, I heard a talking at the same time I heard the walking.

COURT. Was it a man’s or a child’s foot—A. I cannot say that.

DANIEL DAVIS. Q. I believe you are surveyor to the Phoenix fire-office—A. I am.

Q. Did you go the prisoner’s house after this fire had taken place—A. I did, I examined the spot where the fire was, at the moment I saw it I told Mr. Phillips it was not accidental; upon my oath I have no doubt of it.

Mr. Alley. You are surveyor to the Phoenix office—A. Yes, one of them.

Q. And you say it was the effect of design—A. Yes.

Q. You communicated it to the gentlemen of the fire-office—A. Yes.

Q. The office does not prosecute—A. So it seems.

JOSHUA GARRETT. I am clerk in the Phoenix fire office.

Q. In the month of January last, did the prisoner apply at your office to make an insurance—A. Either him or somebody applied for him. There was a policy of insurance effected.

ISAAC DE YOUNG. Q. Did you serve copies of these two notices on the prisoner—A. Yes, on Saturday, and on the day before. (Notices read.)

JOHN LOCKEY. I am in the employ of the Phoenix fire company. I remember delivering a policy at the prisoner’s house, in February, 1808. I delivered it to a female.

MR. GARRETT. I produce the minutes from which the policy was made. On the 29th of January, 1811; the amount is four hundred pounds, one hundred pounds stock in trade, hundred and fifty pounds in furniture, and hundred and fifty pounds the lease. The policy is a transcript of that minute.

Mr. Alley. You do not know that the prisoner ever received that policy—A. I cannot tell.

JOHN PAWLIN. I am an assessor of damaged furniture to the Phoenix fire office. I saw the fire after it happened.

Q. Did the prisoner present any thing to you for the loss by fire—A. He did, to the amount of fourteen pound one shilling.

JAMES PAWLIN. Q. Did you go on the morning of the fire to the prisoner’s house—A. I did, I asked him if he could give any account how the fire happened; he told me no; I asked him what he did upon the alarm of fire, he said upon being alarmed he went down stairs in his shirt, that he ran into the parlour where
the fire was, and from the smoke where the fire was he could not get out, he then said he returned up stairs, and dressed himself, and his wife and children.

The prisoner left his defence to his counsel.

SAMUEL LLOYD, I am a watchman. I went to assist with the engine; the fire was burning when I came. Bland broke the door open. I went in; I saw the prisoner up one pair of stairs, he was undressed and his wife was undressed; I took the boy down stairs, I went up again and took the girl down.

Q. What was Mr. Phillips, doing—A. I do not know; I did not see him any more.

PETER ANDREWSON. I am headborough of the Parish. At the alarm of fire I went and broke open the pannel of the prisoner’s door.

Q. When you went into the house did you see the prisoner—A. I saw him before I went in the house, I saw Mr. Cohen’s people carrying goods over at that time, both parties were strangers to me; I ran to the first man on the opposite side of the way; I asked him what he was about, he said the next house was on fire. I said it was a surprizing thing to me, that his house should be on fire and your goods almost out. As I went over the prisoner opened the window, and said, for God’s sake save my life and my wife and children, I am almost choked with smoke; he was in his shirt. I could not see any more than his arms, head and shoulders.

Q. Were there many people there at that time—A. No more than Cohen’s people, and a sailor that I could observe.

COURT. Why the watchman was there, was not he—A. No. I said my friend, there is no ladder to be got now, if there is any thing that you have in the house that is not on fire. I mentioned beds, blankets; I said there were two of us, and by the help of God I would save their children, I waited for a minute or two, but seeing nothing throwed out of the window I broke the pannel of the door, in about ten or eleven minutes the engine came; Bland called for the crow, forced the door in. Bland, Clew, the beadle and the sailor went in, and after I had taken the door away I ran for the water, I saw the prisoner after the fire was over, he had his clothes on then.

Mr. Gurney. Then the prisoner threw up the window, and called for you to assist, ten minutes before the engine came up—A. Yes, or more.

Q. Might it not be a quarter of an hour before the engine came—A. I cannot be sure, it might be minute over or under.

Q. How long was the engine there before you broke open the door—A. The engine was not there two minutes before the door was thrown in the street.

Q. Then as long as a quarter of an hour before the engine came, the prisoner knew the house was on fire. Most undoubtedly.

JOSEPH BROWN. I am a labourer in the rope ground, I arrived between twelve and one at the fire, I saw the door broken open, Mr. Phillips looked out of the window, with a white shirt on.

Mr. Gurney. Did not the engine come directly after he spoke to you—A. Yes.

SARAH BROWN. Q. You and your husband work in the rope ground—A. Yes, I was alarmed, I went to the fire, I stood by the shop door before it was broken open, I saw the prisoner look out of the window, with a white shirt on, that was just before the door was broken open.

The prisoner called nine witnesses, who gave him a good character.

GUILTY—DEATH; aged 52.

The prisoner was recommended to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent’s mercy, on account of his good character.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Sarah Simons)—16 Sept 1812


(This is an interesting case, not simply because the defendant’s name is Sarah Simons, the same as Henry’s mother-in-law, but because she is found not guilty in circumstances similar to that which later got Henry Cohen transported for 14 years.)

783. SARAH SIMONS was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 26th of August, a 20l. bank-note, and a 10l. bank-note, the property of Thomas Bullock.

THOMAS BULLOCK. I am a smith. I lost the banknotes at the sign of the Blue Post, Bread-street, Carnaby-market, on the 26th of August last, about twelve at noon. I paid the man four shillings and sixpence halfpenny. I went to pay the money if he would change a pound note. I took my book out of my pocket; there were no women in the room; there were two men there, one was a blind man.

Q. How came you to accuse this woman of taking the notes, when there was no women in the room—A. I do not say that she has robbed me of them. I have traced the 20l. and 10l. note to her. I asked her how she
came by them, she said a strange man came in and bought fifty pounds worth of goods, and gave her the notes; he brought his own cart and took the goods away. I am sure she was never in the room; she never stole them from me.

NOT GUILTY.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (James Simmons)—2 June 1813


(This case shows the relationship between Henry Cohen and the family of James Simons [Simmons] and also that Henry had a sister named Fanny [Frances].)

574. JOSEPH RICHARDSON and JAMES SIMONS were indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Mary marchioness dowager of Downshire, baroness of Sandys, in land, about the hour of twelve at night, on the 29th of March, and stealing therein, seven watches, value 220l. four watch chains, value 5l. forty gold seals; value 120l. two pair of ear-rings, value 300l. two neck chains, value 20l. two broaches, value 8l. two diamond pins with a locket, value 2l. a gold chain bracelet with a lock and key, value 50l. seventy rings, value 320l. two miniature pictures set in gold, with diamonds, value 200l. a musical box, value 50l. twelve other boxes, value 30l. a toothpick case, value 10s. a gold bando, value 10s. a silver bread basket, value 3l. a pocket-book, value 2l. two silver ink-cups, value 2l. a smelling-bottle, value 1l. a reading glass, value 1l. two pieces of silk, value 10s. thirty gold medals, value 100l. one hundred silver medals, value 20l. three hundred and twenty pounds in monies numbered, six bank notes, value 5l. each, ten bank notes, value 2l. each, forty-nine 1l. bank notes, her property. And NATHAN SIMONS, SARAH SIMONS, and JAMES FRANKIL, for feloniously receiving the said goods, they knowing them to be burglariously stolen.

MARY HILL, MARCHIONESS OF DOWNSHIRE, AND BARONESS SANDYS. Q. Is your house situate in the parish of St. George, Hanover-square—A. It is.

Q. In the night of Monday the 29th of March last was your ladyship’s house broken open and robbed—A. It was, and the property stolen was of the value of some thousand pounds.

JAMES HAZARD. I am groom and chamberlain to the Marchioness of Downshire. On the night of the 29th of March I shut the windows of the back drawing-room. There are three windows. I shut the first window and the second, and fastened them; the third window I put the sash close down; I did not fasten that; I let the Venetian blinds and the curtains down.

Q. Is that third window next to the bow window—A. It is.

Q. What time in the day was it when you fastened these windows—A. Between seven and eight o’clock.

ANN ORAM. I am housemaid to the Marchioness.

Q. On Tuesday morning did you go into the back drawing-room—A. I did, a little after seven. I was the first that came down stairs. When I went into the back drawing-room I found the window nearest the Bow window open; the Venetian blinds were half down, and the sash quite up. There is some leads underneath that window; I there saw one of these ink stands and a gold cup tied up in a pocket handkerchief. I afterwards examined that room; I saw the drawers open, and the papers about the floor. I went into the adjoining-room; the cabinet was open, and all the boxes.

Q. Did you observe whether the contents of the cabinet and boxes were gone—A. No, sir. I then went and communicated it to the man servant.

CHARLES BRIAN. I am porter to the Marchioness. On Tuesday morning I was called by the last witness; I went first into the anti-chamber, and then into the front drawing-room. Nothing was broken open in the front drawing-room. This was a little after seven o’clock. I then went into the back drawing-room; I found the cabinet broken open, the table drawer, and some boxes that were in the room were broken open. There were papers about the room. There were things gone out of the cabinet and drawer.

COURT, Q. to Marchioness. Was it in this cabinet and drawer that you kept your valuable things—A. Yes.

Mr. Pooley, Q. to Brian. Did you look out of the window of the back drawing-room—A. Yes.

Q. It adjoins the bow—A. Yes. There are leads under that window, the back drawing-room. That window was open. On the leads was a bundle tied up. I went down to it; there I found a bundle containing two ink stands, and on the top of the bundle some small ornaments of silver. I found a gold cup quite in the corner of the leads, under the window. It was pressed quite flat to make it portable.

Q. The ink-stands and cup you found there were the Marchioness’s, I suppose—A. Yes.
Q. Do you know how the persons got in the window—A. Apparently by what I saw by a frame tied to the rails, and a lamp-lighter’s ladder; the frame was used, and the ladder; the ladder upon the frame. That frame had been there perhaps for years.

Q. Did you afterwards procure the ladder which the lamp-lighter used to use—A. Yes.

Q. Was the ladder long enough to have got in the window without the frame—A. No; so it appeared by the tying of the frame.

Q. When you found the frame that morning was it tied—A. It was tied to the rails in three place.

COURT. What rails—A. At the back part of the house. That old window frame had been brought from the lumber-room, and fastened there.

Mr. Pooley. Did you see where the ladder was found the next morning—A. No; I did not see the ladder found. On my going up the area steps on the landing-place the lamp-lighter came; he asked me if there had been anything the matter. I said, yes. He said, because I found my ladder there this morning.

Q. When you went into the room how was the door between that and the stair-case—A. That door was open.

Q. Was the back drawing-room door fastened—A. I cannot tell. I did not go there last at night.

Q. to Hazard. How was the back drawing-room door at night—A. It was shut, but not locked. I shut it a quarter before one; the time that the Marchioness went to rest. I shut both the doors, but not locked them; I am sure of it. I shut the back drawing-room door, and the front drawing-room door.

Q. Do you know how the anti-room door was that night—A. I shut it at the same time. I think I was the last person up.

EDWARD BIGNELL. I am a lamp-lighter; I light the lamps for the Marchioness of Downshire; I fasten my ladder behind the rails of the stable wall with a padlock and a chain. It was a strong chain, like a brewer’s chain.

Q. On the night of the 29th of March, do you recollect fastening your ladder there—A. I did, about six o’clock in the evening. In the middle of the night, about two o’clock, I go about for the purpose of re-lighting the lamps, and when I went to relight the lamps, the ladder and the chain were gone. I found the ladder about eight o’clock; it was standing upon the area steps of the Marchioness, inside of the rails.

JOSEPH BECKITT. I am a servant to Mr. Adkins, the Governor of the house of Correction.

Q. Do you know Richardson—A. Well, sir. I met him on the evening of the 6th of April, between nine and ten o’clock, in Little Earl-street, Seven Dials.

Q. Did Richardson see you—A. By his actions it appeared he did; by his turning down a street, and then running. He slipped off two great coats in running. I came up to him, and apprehended him in Little White Lion-street. I secured him. He asked me what I wanted. I told him not to talk to me in that way. He appeared as if he did not know me. He said, Mr. Beckitt, I shall be hanged. I took him into a back-room of a public-house, and searched him. I took from his person five hundred and twenty-three pounds in bank notes. He then asked me to get him a coat. He had not a coat or hat. I sent for a coach, put him in, and then he offered me the money to let him go. He said, I might keep the money for my own use, provided I would let him go out of the coach. In about ten minutes after that, in our way to the House of Correction, he acknowledged to me of robbing the Marchioness of Downshire; that he had been very lucky in respect of robbing the Marchioness of Downshire of a large property; he said he was one of the party that was concerned in it. I then declined having any further conversation until we got to the House of Correction. I then took him into the office in the Governor’s house, to the Governor, and there I believe he made a confession to the Governor of the robbery. After that, me and the Governor and Richardson went to Reuben Joseph, and a person of the name of Wheeler. In our way we called upon Harry Adkins. We went under Richardson’s directions, and knocked at Joseph’s shop door, the street door being open.

Q. Where was this house of Joseph’s—A. In Chandler-street, no great distance from the Marchioness’s house. Richardson pointed out the house as we were going. We knocked at Reuben Joseph’s shop door, and got admittance. Reuben Joseph opened the door. We got a light and searched the place. The Governor and Richardson asked for a couple of rings; Joseph and his wife denied having them. Richardson said, they had them, and they might as well give them up. Then we took Joseph in custody, and left his wife in custody of Wheeler. Then we went to the Brown Bear, Bow-street, with Joseph and Richardson. I stopped with Richardson while the Governor and Harry Adkins went with Joseph to apprehend old Simons. They brought Simons and Frankil back.

Q. What day was this—A. This was the same night I apprehended Richardson. I took charge of old Simons and Frankil, and the Governor went away again, Then after that we took them to the House of Correction.
Q. Had you any articles delivered to you—A. Yes, on the 13th of April, by Levi Hart It was delivered to me at Levi Hart’s house, Monmouth-court, Seven Dials.

Q. Had you tried to find Simons—A. I have, when he was out of the way, over the water.

Q. How long have you been trying to find him—A. Two or three months, or longer.

Q. Did you know where Simons lived—A. Yes, well. I went there several times to find Simons. I searched his house, (that is in Crown-street, Soho), and I could not find him there. These rings I received of Levi Hart, at the house in Monmouth-court, a gold ring, a diamond ring, a serpent ring, and a small green smelling-bottle, and eight silver coins.

Q. Who has got the bando—A. I don’t know. I have enumerated all the Marchioness can speak to. Richardson was the means of our recovering the property.

WILLIAM ADKINS. I am the Governor of the House of Correction. I know Richardson. On the 6th of April, Richardson was brought to the House of Correction by Beckett, one of my turnkeys; Beckett brought Richardson immediately into my office. I said to Richardson, I was very glad to see him back again; Beckett said he had taken a great deal of money from him; I said whatever you have taken. I said let me take an accompt down before Richardson; I then said to Richardson, from the manner in which the Marchioness’s house had been broken open I had no doubt he was one concerned in it; he sat about a minute, and then he said, sir, I will not tell you an untruth; he said, I was concerned, and his part he sold to Simons’s, meaning Simons and his wife, as I understood.

Q. You knew the Simons’s, did not you—A. Yes. I asked him if he could give me information where I could find Simons; I meant the father and son; he told me he could not tell me where they were at that time. I then asked him if he thought there was any chance of recovering any part of the property; he told me there were two rings, which he had given to a Mrs. Joseph, and that I might recover them again, for he was certain that she had got them; he then told me that old Simons and young Simons had lodged at Joseph’s house, and by going to Joseph’s house, I was likely to find some of the valuable boxes that had been stolen; he had seen them in a drawer in a bureau in a room in which the father and son had lodged; in a chest of drawers I believe; I am not certain whether he said in a chest of drawers, or a bureau; he then said that Joseph could give me the information where to find old Simons. I asked him the name of the street in which Joseph lived; he said he did not know the name of the street, nor the number of the house, but if I thought proper to take him in a coach he would take me to the place; I sent for a coach. I went with Richardson, Joseph Beckett, Wheeler, and Harry Adkins.

Q. Before you got to Joseph’s house was anything said by Richardson to you, how he came by the five hundred pounds in notes—A. I omitted that in taking down the number of the notes, I asked Richardson if that was the produce of what he had stolen from the Marchioness of Downshire; he said part of it was, about three hundred pounds. Richardson took me to a house in Chandler-street, No. 13, he told me the house door would be open; I found it was, that Joseph had a shop and parlour. Richardson said, you had better knock at the door, and when Joseph comes, say it is Joe; Richardson’s name is Joseph; I understood he meant the shop door; I did so. Joseph came and asked who is there; I said Joe. He opened the door, and when he found there was more than one, he then attempted to shut the door again; however I bursted it open again and got in; Joseph and his wife slept in the back parlour; they were both undressed; it was near twelve o’clock. I said to Joseph, do not make any resistance, it is of no use; I want two rings of your wife; Joseph said have you got two rings, give them to the gentlemen if you have got them; Wheeler then brought a light; I then said to Mrs. Joseph, I want two diamond rings of you, which have been stolen from the Marchioness of Downshire; she said she had got no rings, nor had she had any. Richardson then went up to her, and said you had better give them up, because you know I gave them to you. She positively denied knowing anything about it. We then proceeded to search the two rooms belonging to Joseph below, and found nothing. I then went upstairs to the second floor where Richardson, understood, had lodged. Richardson had described old Simons and young Simons had lodged there; I saw the drawer that Richardson had named to me, and found nothing. I came down stairs; I then told Joseph and his wife, that unless they gave up the rings I should take them in custody; said that she had not got them I took Joseph of one side, I said do you know where old Simons lodges to night; he said he did not know. I told him I should take him to the House of Correction, and I should leave his wife at home with Wheeler; We got into the coach, and went to the Brown Bear, Beckett, myself, Harry Adkins, Richardson, and Joseph, five of us, went to the Brown Bear, and from the information, got at the Brown Bear, I went to No. 4, Seymour-court, Chandos-street. I went with Harry Adkins; I knocked at the door several times; I could make nobody hear me; but a woman that lives at the house adjoining; to this opened the window she asked me what I wanted there; she said it was her house. She lent me a key, and we got into the house. I broke open the back room door below; I found the two prisoners, old Simons, and James Frankil, they were in bed, and as soon as we got the light in, I said to Simons, your name is Simons; he said
his name was not Simons; I asked him what his name was; he refused to tell me his name; I desired them both to dress themselves; when Simons had got his clothes on, then I recollected him; I told them both I should take them in custody. I said I knew you now, I shall take you in custody; I asked them if they had anything belonging to them in that apartment; they said no, they had not. I opened a drawer I found a small tea-caddy, and two purses, one a gold purse, the other beads and silk, they have been identified by the Marchioness. I asked Simons and Frankil if they belonged to them; they both denied it positively; Harry Adkins, my brother, and I took them to the Brown Bear.

Q. Before you took them to the Brown Bear, did you find anything else there—A. Not at that time. We locked the door and took the key with us; I left Frankil at the Brown Bear, and desired he might be put in a room at the Brown Bear; and then conveyed Richardson and Simons to the House of Correction. Harry Adkins and myself went to Simons’s lodgings again in Seymour-court, to search the lodgings of the same room that we had been at before, where we found old Simons and Frankil; under the bed that they were in, Harry Adkins found a box in my presence; he has had it ever since; I saw what it contained; it contained diamond rings, a gold watch, some silver coins, a pearl broach a black silk purse, some two guinea pieces, and three pieces of gold coin about the size of a shilling.

Mr. Knapp. to Marchioness. Look at these things—A. I have seen them all, they are my property; I had seen them in my house a day or two before the robbery; my drawer in the cabinet was broken open.

Q. to William Adkins. After you had found the box under the bed where Frankil and Simons laid, what took place—A. On the next day Richardson wished to speak to me; he told me that he had got two rings which were taken out of the Marchioness’s house, and a pocket-book at his lodgings, No. 13, in the Colomade, Brunswick-square; he gave me two keys, and said if I would go to a chest of drawers, I should find two diamond rings, and a pocket-book. I went according to his direction and found the lodging; his wife was bed, this was Thursday the 8th, about eight or nine o’clock in morning. I there found two rings in a pocket-book, and this black silk purse.

Q. Did you find anything else there—A. No, except this iron crow; it is a new one, it has never been used; it is what they call a jemmy.

Q. to Marchioness. Look at the rings, and tell me whether they are yours—A. Yes, I know them; they were in my house at the time the robbery was committed, and I know the purse; it is mine.

William Adkins. On the 13th I received from a person of the name of Levy a number of articles which have been identified by the Marchioness; the first is a musical snuff-box, a blood stone box, a locket watch, and two keys, eleven seals, seven gold, five small seals, and a gold ring, a diamond and granet ring.

Mr. Hanly. I received these pieces of ivory from the witness Adkins; they are piece of ivory upon which eyes have been painted.

Mr. Knapp, to William Adkins. Where did you get these pieces of ivory—A. I received them from Levi I have a silver fillag ree box, I received it of Levi, and four gold purses, a gold breacch, and part of a butterfly with the granets set in it, a neck broach, a watch-chain and slider, a necklace of Irish diamonds.

Q. to Marchioness. Has your ladyship seen these things before—A. I have; I have no doubt they are all mine; they were in my house on the night of the robbery.

Adkins. These are all the things delivered to me at the Green Man public-house, Bow-street. Levi was not in custody.

Mr. Andrews. From whose information was it, Adkins, that you went to Seymour-court—A. Joseph I went there about two o’clock in the night.

Q. Frankil lived there—A. I found him there. This is the box that was found under the bed, on the side that Frankil was laying. Frankil said that Simons had only come there for a nights lodging. I have known Simons a good many years; he lived in Crown-street, with his wife; he left his home about eleven or twelve weeks previous to his being apprehended. The wife remained in Crown-street until she was apprehended.

COURT. Do you know the reason of his leaving his home—A. Simons had bought some stolen property of Richardson, and that was the reason of his leaving his home.

Mr. Adolphus. Richardson knew you, and you knew him. Was not his disclosure a desire to return the lady the property as far as he could—A. Yes. I found all correct. I do not think any part of the property would have been recovered had not it been for Richardson’s discovery.

Q. He did every thing in his power to atone for the offence that he had committed—A. He did.

Mr. Knapp, Q. to Hazard. Did you observe a wax candle in the morning in a candlestick—A. They took a candle in the drawing-room; they did not use it; and there were some short pieces on the carpet. There was one piece that did not belong to the family.

Q. Was there a small candle of the marchioness’s used—A. Yes. The next morning that candle was burnt shorter than it was the over night. I found that candle near the window where they got in. I left it the over
night upon the writing-table in the same room. It was not on the writing-table the next morning; it was upon
the other window.

HARRY ADKINS. I am an officer of Bow-street. On Tuesday night, the 6th of April, I went with Wil-
liam Adkins and Beckitt to No. 16, Chandler-street; there I found Reuben Joseph and his wife.

Q. Did you take Reuben Joseph away from there—A. I did, and left Wheeler there to take care of Dinah
Joseph. We brought Reuben Joseph to Bow-street. I afterwards went to Seymour-court, Chandois-street.

Q. Did you there find old Simons and Frankil in bed together—A. We did. I assisted in taking them. I
took these keys from them. One of these keys upon the ring applied to the tea-caddy. We asked Simons if the
tea-caddy belonged to him; he said it did not. I then went to the windows to see if they were secure in the
inside. I found they were. The prisoners then were taken to Bow-street. I locked the door, and put the key in
my pocket. My brother went with the prisoners to the house of Correction, leaving Frankil. I waited until he
returned, and when he returned we went back to Seymour-court. As soon as we got there we searched the
room. I found that box under the bed, at the head of the bed, under that side of the bed upon which Frankil
was laying. They were both laying in the same bed. All the things that I found have been in my custody or
my brother’s.

Q. to William Adkins. You parted with three boxes and a watch to Mr. Hanley—A. I did, and the thing I
now produce are the things that I received from Mr. Hanley.

Harry Adkins. The other things I have in my custody.

Q. Did you go to Levy’s house—A. I did, at Poplar. I found Joseph Levy at home.

Q. Who did you find there—A. James Simons; he was locked up in a back washhouse. I took him in cus-
ty. I told him I took him upon a charge of robbing Lady Downshire’s house. He said he knew nothing at all
about it. I took him into custody. James Simons had got on a long coat and a pair of pantaloons.

Q. After the robbery had been committed did you go to the Marchioness’s house—A. I did.

Q. How had the thieves got in—A. By a ladder at the back window. There is an area, and there are palli-
sades, and a sash was tied with three strings to the pallsades. The ladder was put on the top of the sash.
There were the marks of the sash upon the ladder. In the evening I got the ladder, and the ladder reached the
window within four or five inches; any person so disposed, by the assistance of the sash and the ladder,
might very easily get in the window.

Q. Now, what was the appearance of the room where you supposed they had been in—A. The first room
I went into was the anti-room. As soon as I went in I observed a kind of a writing desk with a drawer for paper
and pens; it appeared to have been cut by a knife, and to have been wrenched open. Upon this writing-
desk I observed drops of a wax candle. Upon the floor I found the knife which is in that trunk; a clasp knife.
This is the knife. I then went into the back drawing-room where they had entered. I found there the cabinet
broken open, boxes broken open, paper and every thing threwed about the floor. I found an iron crow upon
the floor and a small centre-bit, and a piece or two of dirty candle. In different parts of the room I found
some spots occasioned by the droppings of a wax candle. I then went into the bow-room; I found that room
in the same state; the sash was up. That is all I know.

Mr. Gurney. In searching old Simons did you find any money upon him—A. Fourteen pounds, sir. In the
box under the bed was an hundred pound bank note.

Q. And how many guineas did you find also—A. Seventy-nine guineas, and two half-guineas.

SAMUEL SIMONS. I am an apprentice to Reuben Joseph; he is a tailor in Chandler-street, Grovesnor-
square. I usually sleep at my father’s.

Q. Do you know old Simons—A. Yes; he came to lodge at my master’s house before Christmas; he staid
there until after Lady Downshire’s house had been robbed, and James Simons came frequently to visit his
father, and occasionally slept in the same bed, and I know Richardson; he came to my master’s house. When
he came he went into the parlour at the back of the shop, along with Simons and my master.

Q. Did Mrs. Simons visit her husband—A. Sometimes.

Q. On Monday evening the 29th of March, the evening before the Marchioness was robbed, do you re-
member who was at your master’s house—A. There was Richardson, old Simons, young Simons, and Fanny
Simons.

Q. Was your master and mistress there—A. My mistress went out in the evening about a bonnet, and re-
turned. They were all in the house that evening.

Q. At what time did you go from your master’s house that evening—A. About half past eight, and I re-
turned there the next morning about half past seven. In about half an hour Mrs. Simons came to the house,
and asked for her husband, and went up stairs to him. Her husband and her son came down stairs about eight
o’clock; they went into the parlour. Richardson came in at the side door. Mrs. Simons gave me a shilling to
get some rolls for breakfast. She came back again at three o’clock in the afternoon.
Q. Do you remember in the course of the day what became of Richardson and young Simons—A. About four o’clock they went up stairs. I cannot tell which room they went to.

COURT. James Simons is young Simons—A. Yes. Old Simons went up stairs and came down again; he told my master they were asleep, and he would not wake them.

Q. In the course of that day was there a good deal of going up and down stairs—A. Yes; they went up and down stairs several times. There appeared to be more than usual to do that day.

Q. On the Saturday afterwards do you remember standing against Simons, near the window—A. I was sitting on the shop-board, James Simons scratched the glass of the window with something on his hand. I asked him to shew it me; he said it was only a bit of glass; if I had a bit of glass I could do the same. It appeared to me to be a diamond, and from the appearance of the scratch I was induced to believe it was a diamond.

Q. In the course of that day did Fanny Simons come to your master’s house—A. Yes, and Frankil with her.

Q. What is Frankil—A. I understood, the father of Mrs. Simons.

Q. Did you see either Simons or Richardson after that Saturday night—A. No.

Q. And down to that time Simons had been there for three months—A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any property—A. No, only a pocket-book. That pocket-book is like it. Young Simons gave it to my master to smell; he brought it out of the parlour in his hand.

Q. They only staid till the Saturday night—A. I cannot be sure. I think about Wednesday.

Q. Now, when young Simons shewed this to your master and desired him to smell, what was said—A. My master said there was a key to it. Young Simons tried to unclasp it; he took the pocket-book again.

Mr. Knapp, Q. to Beckitt. I asked you particular about a bando—A. I now produce it; I had not got it then. I received it of Levi Hart.

Q. And rings and silver coins—A. Yes.

Q. to Marchioness. Have you looked at these—at A. I have; it is my property; it was in my house at the same time.

DINAH JOSEPH. I am the wife of Reuben Joseph.

Q. A little before Christmas last did Mrs. Simons apply to you for a lodging for her husband—A. Yes.

Q. In consequence of that application did you get a lodger out you had to take them in—A. Yes.

Q. Did his son James come with him—A. No. He came afterwards and continued to sleep with him. The son James came and often slept in the same bed with the father.

Q. Do you remember a few weeks before the Marchioness of Downshire’s house was robbed his coming to your house—A. Yes; he came on the Monday evening.

Q. Who brought him—A. I do not know. When I came back I found him there. I saw Richardson, old Simons, young Simons, and Fanny Simons.

Q. Between what time, and to the time of his being taken up, did he come frequent to your house—A. Yes.

Q. How long did he come before the Marchioness’s house was robbed—A. I cannot recollect; some time.

Q. From that time until he was taken up was he frequent at your house with Simons—A. Yes, he was.

Mr. Gurney. Now, you remember this Monday night upon which the Marchioness’s house was robbed—A. Yes.

Q. You heard of the house being robbed the next day; on the next evening where did you and your husband go to—A. I and my husband went out to have a bonnet dressed. We came back at about half past eight.

Q. Who did you find there when you came back—A. Richardson, old Simons, young Simons, and Fanny Simons.

Q. How soon after did any of them go out, and who went out—A. Fanny Simons, young Simons, and Joe Richardson. James Simons returned about ten o’clock. When he came back he asked me to go for an ounce of coffee for him, and a three-half-penny candle. I refused getting it. Young Simons went out and old Simons went out. Young Simons came in again; he said he went as far as Russell-square; he appeared very much out of breath, and said he had seen the house of Correction.

Q. Did you see what became of him after that—A. No; I went to bed.

COURT. Then you do not know who slept in Old Simons’s bed that night—A. No. I got up between seven and eight the next morning.

Mr. Gurney. Now, about eight in the morning who did you see—A. Mrs. Simons came in from the street.

Q. Did you see Richardson that morning—A. Yes. Richardson came down with old Simons and young Simons. Mrs. Simons asked me if it would be agreeable to have breakfast with me. I said, if she liked, and they breakfasted together; our apprentice was sent for the rolls.
Q. Had you known by what means Richardson and young Simons got up stairs—A. No, sir.
Q. After breakfast did you see any thing—A. Yes, while we were sitting together, a gold box.
Q. Do you believe that to be it—A. Yes; it is a musical box. Joe Richardson put it on the mantle-piece; I heard it play beautiful.
Q. Do you know the tune—A. No. I saw nothing else.
Q. Was a coach sent for—A. I cannot say.
Q. Do you remember Mrs. Simons going away—A. Yes. I cannot say whether she went in a coach or not.
Q. After she was gone do you remember old Simons, young Simons, and Richardson being in your parlour—A. Yes.
Q. Did young Simons and Richardson go up stairs to old Simons’ bed room—A. I cannot say.
Q. Did you hear any talk about sleeping there from either of them—A. I cannot recollect.
Q. Do you remember their going up stairs—A. I remember they went out of my parlour. I do not know whether they went up stairs or not.
Q. After Richardson and young Simons had been gone some time did old Simons go up stairs—A. Yes.
Q. When he came down stairs did he say anything respecting them—A. Respecting whom?
Q. Richardson and young Simons—A. I do no recollect.
Q. Do recollect yourself, and tell us the whole truth—A. I cannot recollect.
Q. You have been questioned about this before, about old Simons going up stairs; upon his coming down do you recollect what he said—A. He said they were all asleep.

Mr. Gurney. You see you can remember when you choose it. Do you remember who was present at the time that Richardson spoke of the musical box—A. Mrs. Simons and old Simons, and Simons being gone up stairs, Mrs. Simons had offered him three guineas for it; he swore he would not take it; he would keep it longer. He talked something of eighteen; what that was I cannot tell.
Q. In the course of the day did he give you any thing—A. Yes; he gave me two rings; one of them has a blood stone in the middle. I gave them to my mother in the street, to save for me.
Q. Is that ring one of them—A. It is like it; he gave me three; one with a stone, and one with a snake, and this smelling-bottle, and he gave me a pair of scissors and a thimble. Young Simons gave me a gold chain. He gave it me the same day, before he went up to lie down.
Q. Is that the chain—A. It is like it. I gave them all to my mother, Mrs. Hart.
Q. Did old Simons give you any thing—A. Yes, a bando, and some pieces of money, old Simons gave me
Q. Were them pieces of money like these—A. Yes, they were.
Q. A half-crown and Queen Ann shillings—A. Yes, and a ring of cut steel beads. I gave them altogether in a paper to my mother.
Q. Do you remember Fanny Simons producing any thing—A. Yes, a gold purse.
Q. Do you remember on Tuesday morning after the Marchioness’s house had been robbed, do you remember seeing a piece of wax candle—A. Yes; young Simons pulled it out of his side great coat pocket; Richardson was in the parlour; young Simons said, Joe, that belongs to you. Joe swore at it, and said, yes. It was a piece of wax candle, about that size.
Q. Do you remember the night of the Marchioness’s house being robbed, of any matches being bought—A. Old Simons bought a halfpennyworth of a little boy.
Q. Now, you say those things that you received of old Simons and Richardson you gave to your mother, Mrs. Hart, on the Wednesday—A. Yes.
Q. When did they leave your house after this—A. In a few days.
Q. Whether young Simons was in the house or out of the house—that night you do not know—A. No. All the lodgers had a key.
Q. to Marchioness. Do you know that chain—A. That chain belongs to me.

REUBEN JOSEPH. I am a tailor.
Q. We understand that old Simons lodged at your house for two or three months before the Marchioness’s house was robbed—A. Yes
Q. And that for some reasons Richardson used to be there—A. Yes.
Q. The evening before the Marchioness’s house was robbed did you go out—A. Yes, on Monday evening, to fit a bonnet for my wife.
Q. Who was at your house that evening—A. The Simons’s when we returned. Old Simons, young Simons, and Fanny Simons.
Q. At what time did any of them go away—A. I was not present when any of them went away.
Q. After you came home did you go out again—A. Yes.
Q. How late did you see any of them—A. About eight o’clock, or a little after eight, I saw old Simons and young Simons; after that, old Simons came in before ten o’clock, and young Simons came in; his father asked him where he had been. He looked rather out of breath; he had been running or walking very fast. He said he was going up; meaning up stairs. His father said he was going to bed. That is all I saw of them that night.

COURT. His father asked him where he had been—A. Yes; he said as far as Russel-square or Bedford-square. I said he could not go that distance in so short a time. He said he had seen the prison, the house of Correction. I went to bed about half past ten.

Q. How early the next morning did you see or speak to either of the prisoners—A. About seven o’clock in the morning young Simons took the wash-hand basin. There was water in the kitchen.

Q. Did you afterwards go up stairs for the basin—A. Yes, up to Simons’s room on the second floor. When I went up stairs I saw young Simons and Richardson. I asked Richardson what brought him there at that time in the morning; he said, nothing particular, and looked with his head down.

Q. Did he make use of the water—A. Not that I saw. The water had been used.

Q. Did you see Richardson take any thing out of his pocket while you were there—A. Yes, something like that box. I afterwards saw the inside of it. There was something parted off at one end; it was a musical box. I went down stairs.

Q. to Marchioness. Was that box, before it received a damage, a musical box—A. Yes, it was.

Q. to Reuben Joseph. While you were there did Mrs. Simons come in—A. Yes, and she went up stairs.

Q. Had she been there frequently in company with Richardson—A. Not frequently. She knew him seemingly, and they were familiar together.

Q. Now, did they all come down and breakfast after this—A. Yes, and Richardson shewed the musical box again. When he produced the musical box he wound it up by the key, and made it play. He put it on the table; he said Simons had offered three guineas for it, (I understood, old Simons) and from that to eighteen.

COURT. Did you understand eighteen guineas—A. Yes. He said he would not take it. Richardson also took out of his pocket a gold watch; he asked me what it was worth.

Mr. Gurney. Did Mrs. Simons go away that morning—A. Yes. She came back again in the afternoon.

Q. On that day did old Simons produce any thing—A. Yes, a black purse.

Q. Out of that black purse did you see him take any thing—A. Silver coins.

Q. Did Richardson give your wife any thing—A. Yes. I did not see him give it her; he told me a chain he gave her. I sold it to Mrs. Simons. The chain was something of gold, and pearl hung to it, and some stones on it that looked white, enameled with blue.

Q. On what day did you sell it to Mrs. Simons—A. I cannot say whether it was on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Q. Was it like this—A. Yes; he desired me to smell it, it smelled like his father’s prayer-book. He asked me if the lock was gold. I said I believed it was.

Q. Did you observe any thing about Richardson that you had not seen before—A. Yes; I observed two gold seals hanging to Richardson’s watch that I had not seen before.

Q. A day or two after did you see that pokebook in any other persons hands—A. Yes, Richardson’s. I told him I had seen it in young Simons’s hands; he said, yes, he wanted it, but I would not let him have it.

Q. Do you remember on the Monday, the day before the house was robbed, of any matches being bought—A. Yes, by old Simons, of a boy in the street.

Q. Did you see any other person take any of these matches—A. Yes, young Simons; he put them in his breast coat pocket.

Q. Before that night had old Simons usually had a fire in his room—A. No. In the morning when I got up he had a fire.

Q. Was that usual—A. No, I never saw one before. He breakfasted with us on the Tuesday.

Q. Did you see anything take place with respect to a wax candle—A. I saw young Simons take a piece out of his pocket. I saw Richardson take it out of his hands, and some words passed. I do not remember them.

Q. How was your street door usually kept of a night—A. Sometimes shut and sometimes open.
Q. Could your lodgers go in and out of a night just as they pleased—A. Yes.
Q. You had not been disturbed by Richardson coming in—A. No. I do not know at what hour he came in.
Q. Might or might not young Simons go out and Richardson come in without disturbing you at all—A. Yes.

MARY HART. Q. Your husband’s name is Levi Hart—A. Yes.
Q. Is Dinah Joseph your daughter—A. Yes.
Q. Do you recollect at any time Dinah giving you a parcel containing a ring—A. She gave me a paper containing something; I did not look to see what it was. She desired me to take it home, and take care of it; it was something that had been given her; her husband was angry at her having received it. I put the parcel into an old glove, and put it in the cupboard between the wall and a cross-bar of wood in a corner.
Q. You were afterwards taken in custody—A. Yes.
Q. While you were in custody did you give your husband any information where to find it—A. Yes. My son-in-law came up in the morning, and Mr. Adkins. I was apprehended on the Monday. On the next day my son-in-law told me I had two rings. My husband called; I told him to go home and fetch it, and told him where it was I had put it.

LEVY HART. I am the husband of the last witness.
Q. Did you go to her while she was in the house of Correction—A. I did. She directed me where to find a parcel in a glove; I went to the place she described; in that place I found an old glove behind the bar. Beckitt saw me find it. I delivered it to him.

Beckitt. The parcel was delivered into my hand; it has been in my custody ever since. I only delivered it to the Marchioness, and then it was delivered back to me. Levy Hart took it from behind a beam as Mrs. Hart described.

Q. to William Adkins. Look at these things, and tell me whether they are the things which Levy sent to you—A. These things came from Levy; they are all the things I had, except some glass I left at Lady Downshire’s; I was afraid of breaking them.

HENRY COHEN. I am a slop-seller. I live in Rosemary-lane; Mrs. Simons is my mother-in-law.
Q. Do you remember your mother coming to your house on Wednesday, the 31st of March last—A Yes, about two o’clock.
Q. Was Levi there—A. Yes, when I got in we went up stairs together. I went into the front room.
Q. Do you remember your mother-in-law shewing you anything there—A. Yes, she shewed me some diamonds.
Q. Was James Simons there—A. No; she shewed me the top of a round-snuff, it was lined with gold, the outside was ivory, the frame of the picture; she shewed me a pair of diamond ear-rings, with a large diamond in the centre, there were some drop but they did not hang to them at that time.
Q. Did she shew you any diamonds like tops of pins, in gold—A. Yes, and a large cross set about in pearls, and a diamond; the pearls were large; that was all that she shewed me that time; she wished to know the value of them; I and Levi went to Benjamin to get them valued; I shewed him the diamonds; Benjamin said, they were worth two hundred pounds. I went back and saw Mrs. Simons; upon my return, Levi asked her what she asked for them; she said there are more at home, and she would sell them together. Mrs. Simons went home then, and left the diamonds with my wife, who is her daughter. About seven o’clock Mrs. Simons came with her son James, they produced a great many gold things; Mrs. Simons had some in an handkerchief; this box was shewed by Mrs. Simons; the musical-box was among them, and the watch; I cannot exactly say to the seals; I believe the seals before me may be the seals; I do not speak positively to them.
Q. What did the son produce—A. He produced a great many seals.
Q. Did he produce a tooth-pick case—A. I believe there was a tooth-pick case; I cannot swear that is the tooth-pick case, I believe it is. This large case I believe was produced by Mrs. Simons.
Q. Upon your oath do not you believe he produced the coin—A. Yes, I do.
Q. Do you remember this book—A. Yes.
Q. Was not there this book full of coin; upon your oath looking at the coin, do you not believe that to be part of the coin in the book—A. No, I do not; I saw him pull it out of his pocket.
Q. Where did you afterwards send them things that you had of Mrs. Simons—A. They were at home; Mrs. Levy had them.

COURT. You delivered all you had of Mrs. Simons, or of James, to Levi—A. Yes.

Mr. Knapp. Did not she say, that she brought these—A. No, she did say it in that way; she said when Mr. Levi offered her the money, she could not take it until she had told her husband, for fear she should do wrong.
JOSEPH LEVI. I am a salesman and silversmith; I live at High-street, Poplar.

Q. You know Cohen—A. I do, and James Simons, and his mother; I was in company with them at Cohen’s-house the last day of March, about three o’clock in the day time; I went there again between eight and nine in the evening; I stopped there till near ten o’clock. Mrs. Simons came with her son, she brought a bundle there in a handkerchief; I saw the bundle opened.

Q. Look at these articles—A. This is one; this musical-box, and this watch-chain another; this locket-watch was in this gold purse. These three purses I cannot say whether they were produced by her or by James; part of these seals I am most sure James Simons brought; this ring Mrs. Simons brought; James Simons produced a number of seals on a string, about forty; this chain James Simons brought; this is the tooth-pick case, I cannot say by whom it was produced; this chain Mrs. Simons brought, Mrs. Simons asked thirty pounds for them; Henry Cohen, and I partly paid her twenty-eight pound for them; the musical-box was not sold, nor the locket-watch, we could not agree about them.

Q. What became of James Simons, did he come to your house—A. Not that time, he came down the week following; Henry Cohen his brother-in-law asked me to let him stay there.

Q. Did you know that old Simons was apprehended—A. Yes, I did. This book, James Simons had it; it was full of large coins, he said he would not part with it; he said Joe must have it.

Q. Who is Joe—A. I don’t know; the diamonds I would not purchase; I bid her twenty-eight pounds for the gold only.

FANNY COHEN. I am the sister to Henry Cohen. I received these things of Mr. Levi to take to his house; I was directed to deliver them to Mrs. Levi, and to desire her to put them safely.

FANNY SIMONS. Q. Did you at any time go to the lodgings of your father at Joseph’s—A. Yes; I saw Richardson there.

Q. You have heard of the robbery of Lady Downshire—A. Yes; I went the day after; there I saw Richardson; he gave me a watch, a broach, and two rings, in my father’s presence.

Q. From whom did you get these two purses—A. From Richardson; I think he gave them me in my father’s presence; I gave them to my father to take care of.

JOHN ARMSTRONG. Q. Do you know Nathan Simons—A. No, sir: I have been at a house I believe to be his, and read a warrant to the woman at the bar, but I have never been able to find him.

Q. When was that you went—A. After October last, I went there to execute a warrant, and there I saw Mrs. Simons; I went there several times afterwards with Daniel Bishop, and my son, both officers; I never could find him.

Richardson’s Defence. My lord, and gentlemen of the jury, a just sense of horror at my present awful situation, and being unwilling to attempt to justify my conduct, I plead guilty; which guilt originated in the dangerous acquiescence of most dishonest practices. Pardon my presumption; having only attained my twenty-six years, bred to a stonemason. I cannot be supposed to have transgressed the laws of my country, to that extent as I humbly acknowledge to be the case without wicked advice, by characters whose chief dependence were to trace the steps upon various mansions, for advising me, and other unfortunate persons like myself, to rob and plunder every thing to themselves, they acquiring the property; to such characters I have fallen a prey. I can assure you that my actions have never been that of a self-premeditated thief, and it is the only reparation I can make. Sorry I am to make my own condemnation, justice makes me do it; I never carried any offensive weapon about my person, and so far from doing violence on these occasions, upon the least noise or alarm sooner to risk violence I ran away rather than by violence endangering the lives of valuable subjects. I have too frequent fallen into and adopted the mode of systematic house-breaking. Mrs. Simons and her family, who are now indicted with me, they have been the chief persons that I have been connected with since my being in London three years, who have informed me what houses to break into, and when and what part the most valuable property was contained, which property I was obligated to sell to them at the sixteenth part of the value, and when I have so done there have been persons in the street to rob me of the same. My escape from Cold Bath-fields prison is too notorious, it is well known I escaped from there; when being moneyless I went to Mrs. Simons; Mrs. Simons then mentioned the robbing of the house of the noble Marchioness. I have pleaded guilty, and am therefore determined to tell of the Simons’s family. They gave me instructions about the house; which after their giving me several times, they set me to rob the house, which I humbly beg pardon for the same. On my apprehension I acknowledged my guilt and contrition. I have been the chief instrument of restoring the property back again. Pardon me, my wife is only seventeen years of age, entirely without any protection by the recent loss of her father. I humbly implore your mercy; spare my life; I have transgressed in the extreme, yet as I have endeavoured to discover the present robbery
and to restore all the property in my power, I humbly hope you will save my life. Banish me wherever you please; I implore mercy, for which I and my family will for ever pray.

James Simons’s Defence. The things I sold to Henry Cohen I received of my father. I am quite innocent of the robbery.

Nathan Simons’s left his defence to his counsel.

Sarah Simons’s Defence. I acted under the directions of my husband.

James Frankil’s Defence. I am as innocent as his lordship I declare to God I know no more about it.

RICHARDSON, GUILTY—DEATH, aged 27.

JAMES SIMONS, GUILTY—DEATH, aged 16.

NATHAN SIMONS, GUILTY, aged 50. Transported for Fourteen Years.

SARAH SIMONS, NOT GUILTY.

JAMES FRANKIL, NOT GUILTY.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Jacob Clausman)—15 Sept 1813

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, 19 June 2006), September 1813, trial of Jacob Clausman (t18130915-130).

955. JACOBUS CLAUSMAN was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 23rd of July, two handkerchiefs, value 3s. the property of Henry Cohen.

HENRY COHEN. I keep a slop-shop. I lost two handkerchiefs on the 4th of July; they were taken out of my shop.

Q. Did you see the person take it—A. No; I was up stairs. My shopman called me down; he told me he saw the prisoner take them; I found them in his hat.

FREDERICK LEVY. I was standing in the shop. The prisoner came in, and asked me if I would buy a bed quilt of him. I told him I was not in the habit of buying these articles; I would shew them to my master. In the mean time he sat on the counter, and took two handkerchiefs off the shelves; he put them in his hat. I called my master down; he came down; I told him. He took the prisoner’s hat off, and found these handkerchiefs. These are the handkerchiefs.

GUilty, aged 27.

Whipped in jail and discharged.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Lee & Parker)—10 Jan 1816


253. DAVID LEE and JAMES PARKER were indicted for stealing, on the 11th of January, two jackets, value 10s. the property of Henry Cohen.

HENRY COHEN. I am a slop seller, in Rosemary-lane. The prisoners came into my shop, on the 11th inst, and enquired if I would purchase a prize ticket from them; I said no, it was not my business, I was no agent. There was a person came by at the time, and I told them that was a navy agent, and they went with him, I missed two jackets; they came in the evening and took more. Next morning I challenged them with stealing the jackets, and they confessed they took one at night; and I found it the next day at the shop of Abraham Harris, a slop-seller in my neighbourhood.

JOHN BROWN. I am a police officer, and only took the prisoners into custody.

NOT GUILTY.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Andrew Mills)—10 July 1816


795. ANDREW MILLS was indicted for stealing, on the 9th of July, a waistcoat, value 2s. the property of Henry Cohen.

HENRY COHEN. I am a salesman; I live in Rosemary-lane. I lost a waistcoat on the 9th of July; that waistcoat was on the counter inside the shop. The prisoner and another man came into the shop together. After they had gone out of the shop, I missed the waistcoat. I went after them, and found it on the prisoner. I gave him into the custody of an officer.

(Property produced and sworn to.)

GUilty, aged 39.

Confined one month, and fined 1s.
Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Joseph Clayton)—8 Sept 1831


1610. JOSEPH CLAYTON was indicted for stealing, on the 28th of July, 1 coat, value 12s, the goods of Henry Cohen.

JAMES CLAPSON. I am a Policeman. On the 28th of July, about eleven o’clock in the morning, I met the prisoner with this parcel on his shoulder; I asked what it was—he said a coat, which he had bought that morning, and at the station he said he had bought it at Cohen’s.

HENRY COHEN. I keep a clothes-shop in Edgware road. This is my coat—I never sold it; it was not missed till the Policeman brought it—I had seen it the night before by the window; my shopmen are not here—I am to and fro all day.

NOT GUILTY.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (William Bryant)—5 Jan 1832


(I noticed this case because a ‘Henry Cohen’ was called as a witness, but I have included it here principally because it would have to be a classic example of a case that demonstrates the severity of penalties in Britain, at that time, for crimes against property compared to penalties for crimes against the person of a member of the less privileged class: 12 months confinement for the killing of a Jew!)

506. WILLIAM BRYANT was indicted for killing and slaying Elias Hart.

MARY PHILLIPS. I am the wife of Jedediah Phillips; we lived in Tooson’s-court, Petticoat-lane. On the 12th of December I was coming down the court, and saw the prisoner—he made use of very bad language, and when I came back, he said, “What business have you up here?” I said, “I live up here;” he caught hold of the back of my neck, and drove me out of the court—I cried Murder! and that brought people to the spot; I got released in the crowd—I saw a large piece of wood in the prisoner’s hand; I did not see that he was intoxicated.

MARK MARKS. I live in Mills-court, Petticoat-lane, and am a gold and silver refiner. On the evening of the 12th of December I heard a cry of Murder! in Tooson’s-court; I went there, and saw the prisoner striking Elias Hart, whilst he laid on the ground, with part of a plumbrule—this is it; I went as soon as I heard the cry—it was between six and seven o’clock; there were some people at the bottom of the court when I ran up, but I did not see the beginning of it—the prisoner turned his back, and ran up the court; I followed him—he ran up stairs in the house where his brother, Cornelius, lives; I made several attempts to get up stairs after him, but he stood with this stick in his hand, and every time I attempted to go up, he struck it down; several persons tried to go up: he threw hot water over us, and pieces of bricks—at last a young man pulled off his coat, and ran up; he got in contact with him, and they both came down—I got hold of him by the collar, and the officer took him; I saw Elias Hart dead—I had known him for some years; I had not seen him give the prisoner any provocation whatever.

Cross-examined by MR. LEE. Q. I believe Elias Hart was a Jew, was he not? A. Yes; I ran up as soon as I heard the cry; I saw the deceased on the ground—it was light enough for me to see the prisoner strike the blows; the prisoner was not bleeding from the head at that time—I will swear there was no blood on the prisoner’s face; I did not observe any person but the prisoner; I did not hear any words pass at all—Hart was an elderly man, and dealt in pawnbroker’s goods—he lived up that court, I believe the prisoner is a bricklayer’s labourer, and this is an instrument they use; the court is no thoroughfare—I did not see any cut or bruise on the prisoner’s face at all; I took him out of the passage, with the assistance of the Police-officer—I attended the inquest and was examined; I saw no blows given by the deceased—he was on the ground; I did not notice any other person about—my attention was fixed on the prisoner.

HENRY COHEN. I saw the prisoner between six and seven o’clock on the 12th of December; he had hold of Phillips by the neck, and this piece of wood in his hand—I asked what he was doing, and said, “Are you not ashamed to touch that old woman?” he let her go, and struck at me with this stick—I warded off the blow; Elias Hart then came up the court, and he struck him on the head—Hart had not done any thing to the prisoner; he was passing to his own apartment when the prisoner struck him across the head—Hart fell down, and the prisoner struck him two or three times on the temple and the head, while he was on the ground, bleeding; the prisoner then ran up stairs to his brother’s room, and was taken there—Frances Phillips got a chair and sat Hart on, and washed his face; the prisoner appeared to be intoxicated.

Cross-examined. Q. Did you arrive before there was any dispute between the prisoner and Phillips? A. I heard her call out, and then went up; I saw Hart come up, and the prisoner struck him—he had not called the
prisoner, Paddy: he had not spoken to him—there was Phillips and two or three more persons, but no one called him names; I will swear Hart did not strike him or speak a word—the prisoner knocked him down without any provocation at all.

FRANCES PHILLIPS. I heard my mother cry Murder! I went to the spot—I saw the prisoner; I asked what he was doing with my mother—he made use of very bad language—he left her, and poor old Mr. Hart was coming up the court—the prisoner struck at him; he had not spoken to the prisoner—he was near seventy years of age; he fell when the prisoner struck him; the prisoner repeated his blows when he was on the ground; the prisoner did not say anything till he got to his own place; he then made use of very bad language—he did not say anything while he was striking the deceased.

Cross-examined. Q. Did you hear no provocation given? A. No, I only heard my mother cry out; I did not hear such a word as Paddy; the deceased was too old to strike a blow.

THOMAS NEWMAN. I live in Tooson’s-court, and am a carpenter. I heard the cry of Murder! I ran up the court, and saw Hart laying on the ground—I did not see the prisoner strike him, but I saw him in his house with his brother Cornelius—I went to fetch him down; the prisoner said, “Come up you br-rs, I want you;” he had a stick in his hand—I seized him by the leg, and brought him down; I did not observe that he was hurt in falling—I saw no blows struck, but I heard the noise of sticks going.

Cross-examined. Q. Did you hear no calling of names, nor provocation? A. No.

ZACHARIAH BAKER. I am a Policeman. I heard a cry of Murder! a little before seven o’clock; I got two men to assist me, and when I got to the court, there was a great multitude; when they saw us they made way for us; the witnesses and a Jewish constable were trying to get the prisoner out of the passage—I took him to the station—I went back to the house, and found this piece of a plumb-rule behind the door, covered with some staves of a washing tub; these other pieces of wood were brought in, but I do not know what they were.

JOHN CAWTHERY LODGE. I live in Swan-court, Petticoat-lane, and am a carpenter. On the night in question I heard the cry; I ran up the court, and saw the deceased laying bleeding in a corner of the court—I assisted in getting him up; a woman brought a chair—I washed his face, and took him in doors; when the officer came I took him to the station—the gentleman said, “You had better take him to a doctor,” which I did—the doctor put something to his face; I took him home, and then in a coach to the London-hospital; I saw him afterwards dead.

JOHN HILLIARD. I am a pupil of the London-hospital. The deceased was brought to the hospital on the 12th of December, about ten minutes past eight o’clock; I found a deep lacerated wound on his left cheek, about two inches and a half long: the cheek bone was laid bare, and a branch of the temporal artery had been divided, which bled profusely—I should consider it was an instrument of this kind which made the wound: there was a contused wound on the head, such as might have been inflicted by a more blunt piece of wood; several of his teeth were loose, as if he had received a blow from a man’s fist—he was between sixty and seventy years of age: I stopped the haemorrhage—it had been dressed before, but not sufficiently to stop it; he died on the 2nd of January—Mr. Scott, the surgeon, superintended my management of him; he had every thing done that the nature of the ease required—had he been a young man he might have been saved; I think the wounds were the cause of his death.

Cross-examined. Q. Then you believe the cause of his death was a wound produced by an instrument of this description? A. I should think the wound on his cheek was from a blow, with the sharp edge of this piece of wood—I think it could not have been produced by falling, unless he had fallen while on a scraper, or something of that kind.

The prisoner put in a written Defence, stating that he had been attacked in Petticoat-lane by several Jews, who surrounded and robbed him; and the deceased must have fallen, in his endeavouring to get from them, but he had not struck him.

ZACHARIAH BAKER re-examined. Q. Did you see any bruise or injury on the prisoner? A. No.

JURY. Q. On what part of the cheek was the deceased’s wound? A. Under the left eye; the prisoner was drunk.

GUILTY. Aged 30.—Confined Twelve Months.

Old Bailey Sessions’ Paper (Henry Cohen)—16 May 1833

1015. HENRY COHEN was indicted that he, on the 20th of March, did receive and have of a certain evil-disposed person, 2 promissory notes, for the payment and value of 10l. each; and 2 promissory notes, for

1. Henry Cohen’s brother, Benjamin Wolf Cohen (1788–1842), married a Frances Phillips!
payment and value 5l. each, the property of our sovereign Lord the King, which had been lately before stolen, he well knowing them to have been stolen against the statute, &c.

2ND COUNT, stating them to be the property of Charles Duke of Richmond.

3RD COUNT, stating them to be the property of John Pike.

4TH COUNT, stating them to be the property of James Hooper and another.

MESSRS, ADOLPHUS and SHEPHERD conducted the prosecution.

JOHN PIKE. I am a cheese-factor, and live at Fisherton, near Salisbury. On Sunday, the 3rd of March, I had occasion to make a remittance to Hooper and Askew—I was to send them one hundred and eighty-five pounds—I gave my wife about one hundred and forty or one hundred and forty-five pounds in Glastonbury notes for that purpose, and desired her to make up the quantity one hundred and eighty-five pounds, and remit it in a letter; on Tuesday morning I had information that it had not arrived.

SARAH PIKE. I am the wife of the last witness. On the 3rd of March my husband gave me a letter, which he wrote to send to London, and one hundred and forty-five pounds of Glastonbury notes—I took the numbers of them, and put other notes making one hundred and eighty-five pounds; four of the Glastonbury notes were No. 1435, 10l. dated the 4th October, 1828; 1340, 10l. dated the 21st of August, 1828; 2467, 5l. dated the 22nd of September, 1828; 2055, 5l. dated the 17th of September, 1828—I made the notes up, and enclosed them in the letter which Mr. Pike gave me—I sealed the letter, and gave it to his nephew, John Hooper, to take to the post; I sealed it with a wafer and wax in the middle and at both ends, and directed it to Hooper and Co., No. 168 Upper Thames-street, London; I gave it to him about half-past seven o’clock.

Cross-examined by MR. PHILLIPS. Q. How many different notes did you send in the letter? A. Twenty-six—Hooper was present and counted them as well as me; this is the memorandum I made at the time; it has the number and the date of each note.

JOSEPH HOOPER. I am nephew of Mr. Pike. On the 3rd of March Mrs. Pike gave me a letter to put into the post; I put it in before half-past seven o’clock in the evening, into the London post at Salisbury.

ALEXANDER HAYWARD MINTY. I am post-master of Salisbury. If this letter had been put into the post before nine o’clock, it would arrive in town next morning; the bag was made up and forwarded to London that night.

Cross-examined. Q. Did you make it up yourself? A. I did that night I am certain.

Mr. ADOLPHUS. Q. Is this letter bill made up in your hand-writing? A. It is.

ARTHUR GRAHAM. I am a clerk in the General Post Office. On the 4th of March the Salisbury bag arrived safe, sealed, and in its usual state; I opened it.

Cross-examined by MR. CLARKSON. Q. Whether there was a letter directed to Hooper, and Co. you cannot tell? A. No.

THOMAS LUFF. I am a letter-carrier in the post office. It would be my duty to deliver all letters for Hooper and Co., Thames-street—on the 4th of March I delivered them only one, and that was all that was given to me to deliver—I sometimes deliver them to a boy.

WILLIAM CROOK. I was clerk to Hooper and Co., Thames-street. On the 4th of March I received a letter for them by the general post—I gave it to Mr. Askew—I recollect it came from Hull.

WILLIAM ASKEW. I am a cheese-agent and one of the firm of James Hooper and Askew; there is one other partner. On the morning of the 4th of March, a letter was delivered to me by the last witness; I recollect it; this is the letter, it came from Hull—I received no letter from Salisbury that morning, and have never received the one enclosing one hundred and forty-five pounds.

Cross-examined by MR. PHILLIPS. Q. Is it the duty of other persons to receive your letters?. A. The postman gives them to whoever is present—we have only one clerk; we have a warehouseman and two boys who sometimes receive letters, but Crook is the only one in the counting-house—no third person has any share in our business.

WILLIAM SIMPSON. I am clerk to Messrs. Masterman and Co., who are agents to the Glastonbury bank. On the 20th of March, the prisoner came to our house, and brought two 10l. and two 5l. Glastonbury bank notes, which I produce; we had received a notice about Glastonbury bank notes before that—I at first asked him what he would have for them, and then referred to the book, and saw that they were part of those desired to be stopped by the Post-office solicitor—he said he would have gold for them; I asked his name and address; he said Cohen, Edgware-road—when I found they had been stopped, I went and spoke to one of the principals, and showed him the notes, and Mr. Oxley required Cohen to come and speak to him—he told Cohen the notes had been stolen, and payment was stopped by request of the Post-office—he was then asked if he had any objection to go to Hooper and Co., Thames-street—he said no; I went with him to Hooper and Co., and saw Mr. Hooper, and told him the notes had been presented for payment; he requested me to walk to Mr. Peacock’s office with Mr. Cohen—which we did, and saw Mr. Peacock, and told him what took place,
and the prisoner was detained—I asked him how he got the notes; he said he took them from two men who were going to St. Katherine-docks to take a passage to New South Wales; and at Mr. Peacock’s office there was a conversation; a Mr. Ramsay was present, he and I went into Mr. Peacock’s room together; I had shown Ramsay the notes before I went into the office; I met Mr. Hooper at the Post-office—Mr. Peacock, when he first saw the prisoner, seemed very much surprised, and said, ‘Mr. Cohen, is that you?’—and questioned him how he became possessed of the notes—he said he took them of two men who came to his shop, and bought goods to the amount of 24l. or 25l.—their name and address were not on the notes, but the prisoner’s name and address had been put on since—he said he had them from two men going to New South Wales—Mr. Peacock said that it was, (I think,) the third or fourth time he had had stolen notes in his possession, the prisoner replied that it was only the third time.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clarkson. Q. The notes are payable at your house? A. Yes—I did not know the prisoner before, but his house of business was known to our house, we occasionally had bills accepted by him in our hands—there was nothing whatever written on the notes when he brought them; he went with me willingly to my principal; we had received notice of the notes having been stolen about a week before, or more—he went readily with me to Mr. Hooper, and gave his name and address at once; he observed, as we went to Hooper’s, that he had a cheque on Messrs. Scott, in Cavendish-street, which he wished to get cashed, and when it was proposed to go to Mr. Peacock’s office, he wished to go to the Minories—a 100l. note, and the cheque he spoke of was found on him; these bills of his have all passed through our house—(looking at them) they amount to above five hundred pounds.

Mr. Adolphus. Q. Did any bills of his pass through your house under suspicious or dangerous circumstances? A. Some notes which have been received from him, for his acceptance, had been stated to be stolen—I should not have detained him if he had not gone willingly with me, as his name was known at our house.

James Hooper. I am in partnership with Mr. Askew. On the 20th of March, I remember going to Mr. Peacock’s office in the Post-office; the prisoner and last witness were there, and Mr. Ramsay—when the prisoner was brought in, Mr. Peacock said, ‘Mr. Cohen, is this you again?’ his answer was, ‘It is’—Mr. Peacock said, ‘How did you come in possession of these notes?’ he said, ‘I took them of two men, I have not their names; they were going to St. Katherine’s-docks,’ that he sold goods for the notes, but did not recollect what kind of goods—Mr. Peacock observed, ‘It is very strange, you took these notes on Monday; this is Wednesday, and you do not recollect what you sold them for; come, try and recollect’—he said, ‘Well, perhaps half a dozen pairs of trousers, as many jackets and stockings’—Mr. Peacock said, ‘How did they take them away?’ he said, ‘In bundles’—Mr. Peacock said, ‘They must be very large bundles to amount to twenty-three or twenty-four pounds;’ and the prisoner accounted for about 7l. or 8l. worth—the prices were asked; I believe he did not mention the prices, but the calculations were made by Mr. Peacock and myself—Mr. Peacock told him, according to calculation, they would not amount to above seven or eight pounds, they would not exceed ten pounds; he stated that to the prisoner—to my best recollection I heard him say so, and then he asked him who was in the shop at the time he sold the goods, whether his shopman was there; he said No; he was asked ‘where was your shopman?’ and said, ‘Out, collecting’—he was asked, ‘Where was he gone?’ and said, ‘I don’t know’—‘At what time did he go out?’ ‘At two o’clock’—‘When did he return?’ ‘I don’t know, I cannot recollect, but I believe it to be about tea-time, about five o’clock’—‘Was any other person in your shop?’ ‘There might be part of my family, my children’—he was asked if he could not recollect the men if he saw them—I believe he said, ‘I did not know them’—Cohen demanded the notes; Mr. Peacock said he should not give them up, it was a case which will require very serious investigation, and Mr. Peacock said, ‘I believe this is the fourth time you have been here’—his answer was, ‘It is only the third,’ or, ‘It is the third.’

Cross-examined by Mr. Phillips. Q. Do you mean to represent, that Mr. Peacock mentioned the particular sum?. A. He said it would not exceed ten pounds; the prisoner was in the room, but I don’t know whether he spoke to him—I have no doubt he heard it, but cannot be certain; he was a few yards from Mr. Peacock, who addressed himself to all who were present, not the prisoner in particular, it was a general observation—I believe it was said that was but a small proportion; he said he kept no books—we did not ask him the price of each article; I made a calculation being competent to do so—according to the things generally sold in such shops, which are usually a low sort of things; I was never in his shop; I fixed a very low price.

Q. Did you understand them to be second-hand clothes? A. No, but low-priced, as it is a clothes-shop—I never dealt in clothes; I once bought a low-priced top-coat for a person at one of these shops; he said he sold them to two men, and it is natural to suppose, if he called them men, they were not gentlemen—I believe Edgeware-road is not a very respectable place, not the part I am speaking of—I live in Guildford-place, Wilmington-square.
MR. ADOLPHUS. Q. Was the observation about the goods not exceeding ten pounds made by you or Mr. Peacock? A. I believe Mr. Peacock said so, or within a very few minutes I made the observation; Mr. Peacock said, ‘Don’t you keep books?’—he said, ‘Not for daily taking, but for accounts.’

ROBERT WILLIAM PEACOCK. I am brother to the solicitor of the Post-office. I assist him in his business—I was present on the 20th of March, when the prisoner was brought before him and examined respecting the notes—I took down in writing what passed—I only made memorandums, but not of every thing that passed.

MR. PHILLIPS. Q. Did you not take down what you thought principally made against him? A. Not exactly; I took down what I thought right to refresh my memory.

COURT. Q. Refresh your memory by these memorandums, and state what passed? A. On his entering, the solicitor said, ‘Mr. Cohen, is that you?’ he said, ‘Yes, it is’—‘Have you presented these notes at Masterman’s?’ he said, ‘Yes, I have’—‘How did you become possessed of them?’ he said, ‘I took them on Monday afternoon last of two persons,’ that he did not ask their names, they had come in to fit themselves out, and were going to New South Wales; they purchased different kinds of articles—he was asked to enumerate them, and said he could not—Mr. Peacock said ‘You must recollect this was only last Monday’—he said, There might be half a dozen pair of trousers, stockings, and shirts, and he could not recollect any thing more—he was asked what amount the goods came to; he said about twenty-three or twenty-four pounds—it was suggested to him that these articles could not amount to that, but he could not recollect any others which he has sold—Mr. Peacock said, ‘Mr. Cohen, you must remember this is the fourth time stolen notes have been traced into your possession’—he immediately answered, ‘No, Sir, it is only the third’—he said he made no entry in his books, and could not give us the particulars of the articles, that his shopman was gone out collecting debts at the time, but he could not recollect where; that he had written several letters, he did not know to whom; that nobody was present but his wife, or some part of the family—he afterwards said, the two persons had other notes in their possession; it was remarked to him, that the articles he had sold must be very large to amount to twenty-three pounds—he said, they were rather heavy, that he made them up into two parcels of brown paper; he gave one to each, and he understood they were going in an omnibus—I afterwards went with an officer, and searched his premises, and found several letters.

Cross-examined by MR. CLARKSON. Q. Did you take down the number of articles he said he had sold? A. No, I have taken down jackets, shirts, and trousers, I believe I before mentioned stockings instead of jackets—I believe he mentioned four articles; on a second conversation with him going to Bow-street, he told me he was not in the room all the time—I am not aware that I have omitted any thing in his favour—a cheque and letter-receiver, living within a short distance of him; I only asked him respecting certain persons supposed to have been traced into your possession—he immediately answered, ‘No, Sir, it is only the third’—he said he made no entry in his books, and could not give us the particulars of the articles, that his shopman was gone out collecting debts at the time, but he could not recollect where; that he had written several letters, he did not know to whom; that nobody was present but his wife, or some part of the family—he afterwards said, the two persons had other notes in their possession; it was remarked to him, that the articles he had sold must be very large to amount to twenty-three pounds—he said, they were rather heavy, that he made them up into two parcels of brown paper; he gave one to each, and he understood they were going in an omnibus—I afterwards went with an officer, and searched his premises, and found several letters.

COURT. Q. What, in your judgment, is the value of articles exposed for sale there? A. Some, I should think, not worth more than one shilling and sixpence; there were coats as high as fifty shillings; it appeared a new and second-hand clothes shop.

MR. ADOLPHUS. Q. It was in the course of your duty to make such inquiries in the Edgeware-road, as you thought proper? A. It was; I only formed an opinion of the value of the articles—I believe I as I left the office, my brother was putting a value on the different articles which the prisoner had said he had sold—the prisoner has surrendered here to take his trial; he was bound under a recognizance of one hundred pounds, three or twenty-four pounds for the notes; I understood him to mean that he had given change for the rest.

MR. CLARKSON. Q. Did you take down the number of articles he said he had sold? A. I did not take down the number of articles he had said he had sold; I only formed an opinion of the value of the articles—I believe as I left the office, my brother was putting a value on the different articles which the prisoner had said he had sold—the prisoner has surrendered here to take his trial; he was bound under a recognizance of one hundred pounds, three or twenty-four pounds for the notes; I understood him to mean that he had given change for the rest.
Charles Barker, hair-dresser Edgeware-road; Isaac Cohen of Great Alie-street, Goodmans-fields; John Dent, linen and woollen draper, 31 and 32, Crawford-street; John Unit, baker, 112, Edgeware-road; George Bates, Edgeware-road; William Maynard, baker, Upper Lisson-street; Alexander Jones, tailor, 10, Old Kent-road; William Webster, London-street, Edgeware-road; Matthew Weedor, Lisson-grove; John Higginbotham, gentleman, Charles-street, Lisson-grove; Myer Myers, hat manufacturer, Houndsditch; William Grub, plumber, Harrow-road; John James, gentleman, Harrow-road; Thomas Kingham, mercer, Portman-place; Henry James, baker, Stor-street, Edgeware-road; John Chambers, glass-cutter, Lisson-grove; John Lindsey,
Edgware-road; Abram Ackroyd, Exeter-street, Lisson-grove; Henry Charles Bell, clerk of Trinity district, St. Marylebone; and Abraham Harris, King-street, Tower-hill, gave the prisoner a good character.
GUILTY. Aged 43.—Transported for Fourteen Years.

Indent of Convict Ships (1833)
[AONSW: Lloyds(1) X635 / Reel 907 / Fiche 706]
LIST OF MALE CONVICTS, by the Barque LLOYDS, Edward Garrett, Master, John Inches, Surgeon Superintendent, arrived from ENGLAND, 18th December, 1833.

Standing No. of Convict: 33-3400
Indent No.: 104
Name: Henry Cohen
Education: R&W
Religion: Jew
S, M or W: Married
Children (Male, Female): 6, 4
Native Place: London
Trade or Calling: Tailor (complete) [sic]
Offence: Stolen bank [promissory] note
 Tried, Where: London Gaol Delivery
 Tried, When: 16 May 1833
Sentence: 14 Years
Former Conviction: None
Height: 5'1½"
Complexion: Fair ruddy
Colour of Hair: Brown & bald
Colour of Eyes: Blue
Remarks: Breast hairy, scar ball of left thumb, scar back of same; wife, Elizabeth Cohen, son-in-law, Joseph Simmons, and remainder of family arrived per ‘Brothers’, 1833.

Colonial Secretary, Letter Received, 34/?80—20 January 1834

Police Office
Port Macquarie
15th January 1834

No. 34/4
Sir
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 33/88 communicating The Governor’s commands not to assign nor even lend any Special prisoners without receiving his directions in the first instance thereon, a measure that will be seriously felt by the respectable part of the Settlers in this isolated District, hitherto I have assigned until his Excellency’s pleasure was made known, whether confirmed or disapproved, and on the condition that such were not to be sent out of the District under any pretext whatever. Of that privilege [sic] they are now deprived. His Excellency is no doubt aware that from the great distance this place is from the Capital, detached as it were from the rest of the Colony the Settlers must necessarily require the fostering assistance of the Government in the supply of Servants, particularly as the most of them are only Young Farmers.

In September 1832 I was directed to hand over all Mechanics and effective Labourers to the Department of Works. Since then, only Specials and Invalids have been sent to this Settlement the Settlers therefore were shut out from procuring the supply they formerly enjoyed, and could only look for Servants among the Specials or Invalids unless upon an extraordinary case for an effective Labourer when such happened to be dispensed with by the Department of Works. They will now be forced to seek Servants from the Assignment Board in Sydney when from the great delay that will necessarily attend it, many will be prevented from turning their Farms to advantage, which a facility in procuring Servants might otherwise insure them.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Benjamin Sullivan
Resident Magistrate

[Annotated: ‘See subsequent [ColSec] letter [sent] No. 33/484’]
Probate Documents of Henry Cohen
Last Will and Testament (Year 1867, Series 1, #7300)

This is the last Will and Testament of me Henry Cohen of Wynyard Square Sydney in the Colony of New South Wales. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mrs Hannah Marks Widow of the late Solomon Marks the Sum of Five hundred pounds. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Caroline Widow of the late Isaac Nathan the Sum of Five hundred pounds. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Fanny Wife of Henry Solomon the Sum of Two hundred pounds. I give and bequeath to my daughter Sophia Wife of Abraham Cohen the Sum of One hundred pounds. I give and bequeath to my daughter Jane Wife of David Lawrence Levy the sum of One hundred pounds. I give and bequeath to my Grand-daughter Esther Marks daughter of the said Hannah Marks the Sum of Two hundred pounds to be paid her on attaining the age of twenty one years or marriage whichever shall first happen. I give and bequeath to my Grandson Benjamin Francis Marks son of the said Hannah Marks the Sum of One hundred pounds to be paid to him on attaining the age of twenty one years. I give and bequeath to each of my Grand-daughters Sophia Simmons, Sarah Simmons and Jane Simmons daughters of Joseph Simmons Senior the Sum of One hundred pounds to be paid to them respectively on Marriage or after the age of twenty one years to be paid to them or otherwise appropriated for their benefit respectively at such time or times and in such manner as the Trustees or Trustee of this my Will shall in their or his discretion think fit. I give and bequeath to my Nephew Nathan Ellis of London the Sum of Twenty five pounds. And I declare that the whole of the above Legacies shall abate proportionately in the event of any deficiency to meet them in the personal Estate (other than Land or Houses) of which I shall be possessed at my death. I also give and bequeath to my Daughter the said Hannah Marks all of my House Linen. I also give and bequeath to my Grand-daughter the said Esther Marks one of my piano-fortes to be selected by her. I also give and bequeath to my said Grandson Benjamin Francis Marks my Gold Watch made by B. F. Villiamy London and my Gold Watch-guard. I give devise appoint and bequeath all the real and other the personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever situate of which I shall be seized or possessed or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my death unto and to the use of Abraham Cohen of Wynyard Square Sydney aforesaid Hotel-keeper, Sigmond Hoffnung of O'Connell Street[1] Sydney aforesaid Merchant and David Lawrence Levy of Sydney aforesaid Solicitor (hereinafter designated Trustees) their heirs executors administrators and assigns according to the nature and tenure thereof respectively upon and for the trusts intents and purposes hereinafter declared concerning the same that is to say Upon Trust after payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses as to my furniture plate linen china household effects jewellery and all other my personal property (not being land or houses) of a saleable or convertible nature (with the exception of articles hereby specifically bequeathed) absolutely to sell dispose of and convert the same into money with full discretionary power as to time and mode of sale and to collect and get in any moneys which may be due or owing to my estate and to stand possessed of the proceeds to arise from such sale conversion and collection and of other the residue of my said personal Estate after payment of the legacies hereinbefore bequeathed upon trust for distribution in manner following, that is to say I direct my said Trustees or the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of this my Will to appropriate the Sum of Three hundred pounds or Four hundred pounds in their or his discretion for the purchase of household furniture china and other household effects for my daughter the said Hannah Marks if she should elect within six months after my decease to go into housekeeping on her own account. Provided always that the Trustees or Trustee of this my Will may in their or his discretion permit her if she desire so to do to select any articles of my furniture china and household effects prior to the sale thereof not exceeding in value the above amount (in their discretion as aforesaid) such articles to be taken at a fair Valuation in lieu of the appropriation of the said sum of Three hundred pounds or Four hundred pounds as aforesaid. And I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my said personal Estate unto my said Daughters Sophia Cohen, Fanny Solomon and Jane Levy and my Grand-daughter Sophia Cohen daughter of Samuel Cohen of Melbourne in Equal shares and proportions subject to the share of my said Grand-daughter Sophia Cohen daughter of Samuel Cohen not being less than Two hundred pounds out of such residue. And I declare that my said Trustees shall stand seized and possessed of my said real Estate and other the property hereinafter mentioned Upon the trusts and to and for the ends intents and purposes following, that is to say As to Eight Cottages at Newtown near Sydney aforesaid Upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual Income thereof to my Son Samuel Cohen of Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber [sic] the same or any part thereof or until any writ of execution

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[1] In the Affidavit of Executors, Hoffnung’s address is given as Wynyard Street Sydney, and Levy’s address more fully as Pitt Street Sydney.
shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become bankrupt or insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Samuel Cohen shall cease and determine and from and after such determination and also after the death of the said Samuel Cohen during the lifetime of his present wife Upon trust to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said Samuel Cohen and of his present Wife Upon trust for his Daughter Sophia her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to one House in Crown Street Sydney aforesaid known as Number One hundred and eighty eight in the said Street and one House at the back of the said premises in Wood’s Lane Upon trust to pay the said rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son Edward Cohen of Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber [sic] the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become Bankrupt or Insolvent or until the said Life Interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Edward Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said Edward Cohen during the lifetime of his present Wife Upon trust to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said Edward Cohen as the said Trustees or Trustee and in such manner as they shall think proper And from and after the death of the said Edward Cohen and of his present Wife, Upon trust for his Daughter Miriam her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use and benefit free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to two Houses in William Street Woolloomooloo Sydney aforesaid known as Numbers Seventy eight and Eighty in the said Street Upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son Philip Cohen of Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber [sic] the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become bankrupt or Insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Philip Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said Philip Cohen during the lifetime of his present Wife Upon trust to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said Philip Cohen as the said Trustees or Trustee and in such manner as they shall think proper And from and after the death of both the said Philip Cohen and his present Wife Upon trust for his Daughter Esther her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use and benefit free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to two Houses in Hunter Street Sydney aforesaid known as Numbers nineteen and twenty one in the said Street Upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son Joseph Cohen of Murrurundi for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber [sic] the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become bankrupt or insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Joseph Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said Joseph Cohen during the lifetime of his present Wife Upon trust to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said Joseph Cohen and in such manner as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think proper And from and after the death of both the said Joseph Cohen and his present Wife As to the House known as Number nineteen Hunter Street Upon trust for his Son Henry Cohen his heirs and assigns for ever And as to the House known as number twenty one Hunter Street Upon trust for his Son James Cohen his heirs and assigns for ever And as to two Houses in Hunter Street Sydney aforesaid known as Numbers fifteen
and seventeen in the said Street **Upon trust** to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son **Lewis Cohen of Launceston** in the Colony of Tasmania for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become Bankrupt or Insolvent or until the said life Interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Lewis Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said Lewis Cohen and his present Wife **Upon trust** to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual Income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of or the Wife and such one or more of the children of the said Lewis Cohen as the said Trustees or Trustee and in such manner as they shall think proper And from and after the death of both the said Lewis Cohen and his present Wife **Upon trust** as to the House known as Number fifteen Hunter Street for his Daughter **Fanny** her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use and benefit free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to the House known as Number seventeen Hunter Street for his Daughter **Sarah** her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to two Houses in Hamilton Street Sydney aforesaid known as Number three and four in the said Street **Upon trust** to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son **William Cohen of Tamworth** for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber [sic] the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become Bankrupt or Insolvent or until the said life Interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said William Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said William Cohen during the lifetime of his present Wife **Upon trust** to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said William Cohen as the said Trustees or Trustee and in such manner as they shall think proper And from and after the death of both the said William Cohen and his present Wife **Upon trust** for his Daughter **Fanny** her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any Husband with whom she may intermarry And as to three Houses in Crown Street Woolloomooloo purchased by me from Denis Mealey and known as Numbers seventy four, seventy six and seventy eight in the said Street **Upon trust** to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to my Son **Abraham Cohen of Wynyard Square Sydney** for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber the same or any part thereof or until any writ of execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become Bankrupt or Insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said Abraham Cohen shall cease and determine And from and after such determination and also after the deaths of the said Abraham Cohen during the lifetime of his present Wife **Upon trust** to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children of the said Abraham Cohen as the said Trustees or Trustee and in such manner as they shall think proper And from and after the death of both the said Abraham Cohen **Upon trust** as to the Houses known as Numbers seventy four and seventy six in Crown Street aforesaid and one of the said Houses in Wood’s Lane to his Daughter **Jane** her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to the House known as Number Seventy eight Crown Street aforesaid and the other two of the said Houses in Wood’s Lane aforesaid **Upon trust** for his Daughter **Miriam** her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry And as to nine Houses in Little George Street and Hunter Street aforesaid and two Houses in Hamilton Street Sydney aforesaid known as Numbers one and two in the said Street **Upon trust** to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to or permit the same to be received by my said Daughter **Hannah** Widow of the late **Solomon Marks** for and during the term of her natural life or until she shall attempt to alien charge or in-
from and after such determination to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Children or one or more of the children of the said Hannah Marks during her life and in such manner as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think proper and from and after the death of the said Hannah Marks upon trust for her daughter Esther Marks her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry and as to two Houses in Gloucester Street Sydney aforesaid known as Numbers fifty nine and sixty one in the said Street and one House in Cumberland Street known as Number Two hundred and eighteen in the said Street upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to or permit the same to be received by my Daughter Fanny Solomon Wife of Henry Solomon of Sydney aforesaid for and during the term of her natural life for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of her present or any future husband and for which her receipts shall notwithstanding Coverture be sufficient discharge and from and after the death of the said Fanny Solomon upon trust to pay the profits and annual income thereof to her husband the said Henry Solomon for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber the same or any part thereof or until any writ of execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become bankrupt or insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said Trust in favour of the said Henry Solomon shall cease and determine and from and after such determination to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children or of the Wife and such one or more of the Children of the said Henry Solomon as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think proper and from and after the death of the said Henry Solomon upon trust for his daughter Alice her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry and as to two Houses in Clarence Street Sydney known as Number One hundred and sixty seven and One hundred and sixty nine in the said Street upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to or permit the same to be received by my Daughter Jane Wife of David Lawrence Levy of Sydney aforesaid Solicitor for and during the term of her natural life for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of her present or any future husband and for which her receipts alone shall notwithstanding Coverture be sufficient discharge and from and after the death of the said Jane Levy upon trust to pay the rents profits and annual income thereof to her husband the said David Lawrence Levy for and during the term of his natural life or until he shall attempt to alien charge or incumber the same or any part thereof or until any Writ of Execution shall issue against him by virtue whereof his life interest in the said property would but for this direction have been liable to be seized attached or disposed of or until he shall become bankrupt or insolvent or until the said life interest would otherwise but for this direction have belonged to any other person or persons in any or either of which cases the said trust in favour of the said David Lawrence Levy shall cease and determine and from and after such determination to pay and to apply the rents profits and annual income of the said property to and for the support and maintenance or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Wife and Children or of the Wife and such one or more of the Children of the said David Lawrence Levy as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think proper and from and after the death of the said David Lawrence Levy upon trust for the Child or Children or such one or more of the Children (if any) of the said David Lawrence Levy and Jane Levy as they shall jointly or the survivor of them shall by Deed or Will appoint and in default of appointment for such child or children if any absolutely and if more than one in equal shares and proportions and in case the said Jane Levy should die without issue then from and after the decease of both the said Jane Levy and David Lawrence Levy upon trust for my Grand-daughter Jane Simmons daughter of Joseph Simmons Senior her heirs and assigns for ever for her sole and separate use free from the control debts or engagements of any husband with whom she may intermarry and I declare that if on the death of the persons to whom life Interests are hereby given any person or persons for the time being entitled to the possession or the receipt of the rents and profits of the hereditaments hereinbefore disposed of or any part thereof in which such life interests are given shall not have attained the age of twenty one years or if a female shall not have attained that age or married the said Trustees or Trustee shall during such minority or until Marriage as aforesaid receive the rents profits and annual Income of the hereditaments to which such Minor shall be beneficially entitled and
that the receipts in writing of the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my Will at any time or times and from time to time after my decease at the request and by the direction of the person or persons who for the time being shall by virtue of any of the limitations contained in this my Will be entitled to the rents and profits and annual income of any of the said hereditaments hereinbefore devised if such person or persons respectively shall be of full age but if such person or persons respectively shall be under age or unmarried then during the minority or respective minorities or until the marriage of any such person or persons respectively in the discretion of the said trustees or trustee absolutely to sell and dispose in such manner as they the said Trustees or Trustee shall think fit of the said hereditaments the subject of the limitations under which the person or persons respectively making such request or on whose behalf such discretion may be exercised shall be beneficially interested in or entitled to the said hereditaments. And at the like request and direction or in the like discretion to invest the moneys to arise from any such sale or sales in the names of them the said Trustees or Trustee in or upon such Stocks funds or securities as they or he may think fit and from time to time in their or his discretion to alter and vary the said Stocks funds and securities the dividends interest and annual income arising therefrom to be paid to such person or persons and to be applied to and for such ends intents and purposes and in such manner as the rents profits and annual income of the said hereditaments so sold would have been payable or applicable in case no such sale or sales had been made and also at any time or times and from time to time at the like request and direction or in the like discretion to apply the moneys to arise from any such sale or sales or the moneys invested in or upon such stocks funds and securities in the purchase of such other lands and hereditaments in the Colony of New South Wales as the said Trustee or Trustees may approve of to be held upon the trusts and to and for the ends intents and purposes hereinbefore declared as to the hereditaments originally sold. Provided always and I hereby declare that the receipts in writing of the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my Will for any sum or sums of money payable to them or him under or by virtue of any of the powers and authorities hereinbefore contained or otherwise in the execution of the trusts of this my Will shall be effectual discharges for the same respectively or for so much thereof as in such receipts shall be expressed to have been received and that the person or persons to whom the same shall be given shall not be bound to see to the application or be answerable for the loss or misapplication thereof or be bound or concerned to enquire whether any such sale or sales is or are necessary or proper or whether any necessary request or direction has been given or be effected by express notice to the contrary. Provided always and I hereby declare that in case the said Trustees or any of them or any Trustee for the time being of this my Will should during my lifetime or during the continuance of the trusts hereinbefore declared cease to reside in the Colony or should die or renounce or desire to be discharged from the said trust or refuse or become incapable to act therein then and so often as the same shall happen it shall be lawful for the surviving or continuing Trustees or Trustee or if there should be no such trustee then for the executors or administrators the last surviving or last acting Trustee to appoint some other fit person or persons to be a trustee or trustees in the place or stead of the Trustee or Trustees so ceasing to reside in the Colony or dying or renouncing or desiring to be discharged from the said trusts or refusing or becoming incapable to act therein and that every such new Trustee shall and may act and assist in the management and execution of the trusts hereinbefore declared as fully and effectually in all respects and with all the like powers and indemnifications as he might have done if originally in and by this my Will appointed a Trustee thereof or as if his name had been inserted in this my Will in the place of the Trustee in whose stead he shall be substituted and I appoint the said Abraham Cohen, Sigmond Hoffnung and David Lawrence Levy Executors and Trustees of this my Will and I declare that my reason for not appointing my sons Samuel, Edward and Philip Trustees and Executors of this my Will is that being resident out of the Colony of New South Wales they would be unable to act personally in the discharge of the Trusts thereof. In Witness whereof I the said Henry Cohen have herewith set my hand and Seal to this my said last Will and Testament contained in this and the preceding six pages of parchment this twenty seventh day of October One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty Six.——

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us, present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereto subscribed our Names as Witnesses

Henry Cohen (signed)
A. De Lissa, Solicitor, Sydney
H. L. Nelson, 28 Wynyard Square, Sydney, Gentleman
This is a Codicil to the last Will and Testament of me the above named Henry Cohen— Whereas I have lately become surety for my son Joseph Cohen for the amount of One thousand Pounds And Whereas several of my children are indebted to me in various sums of money I do hereby direct and declare that in case I or my executors should be called upon to pay the said sum of One Thousand Pounds or any part thereof such payment shall not in anywise affect any dispositions in my said Will in favour of the said Joseph Cohen and his family And I further direct that payment of the sums due by such of my children as are indebted to me shall not be enforced by my executors or in anywise affect any disposition contained in my said Will in favour of my said children respectively and their respective families And I further declare that in case my personal estate (other than land or houses) should prove insufficient for payment of all the legacies bequeathed by my said Will the dispositions in favour of my daughter Hannah Marks shall be first paid or provided for and then the legacy in favour of my daughter Fanny Solomon And I direct that payment of or provision for the legacy of five hundred pounds to my daughter Caroline Nathan shall be postponed until payment of or provision for all the other legacies and in the event of any deficiency in my said personal Estate shall be diminished by the amount of such deficiency And in the event of my said personal estate proving insufficient for payment of all the legacies bequeathed after excepting thereover the said legacy in favour of my daughter Caroline Nathan then all the legacies bequeathed with the exception of those in favour of my daughters Hannah Marks and Fanny Solomon shall abate in proportion—Provided always that nothing herein contained shall apply to the residuary bequests contained in my said Will the same taking effect only after satisfaction of the whole of the previous legacies bequeathed—In Witness whereof I the said Henry Cohen have hereunto set my hand this twenty seventh day of October one thousand Eight hundred and Sixty Six———
Signed by the said Testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereto subscribed our names as Witnesses
A. De Lissa, Solicitor, Sydney
H. L. Nelson, 28 Wynyard Square, Sydney, Gentleman

Henry Cohen (signed)

26th August 1867. This day upon Petition Probate of the last Will and Testament and Codicil of Henry Cohen deceased was granted to Abraham Cohen, Sigmond Hoffnung and David Lawrence Levy the Executors in the said Will named.
Testator died the 1st day of August 1867. Goods sworn at £2,500.
Probate dated the same day as granted.

[Lawyers obviously charged by the word! Ed.]
Bibliography

Henry Cohen and his descendants/associates:
(Joseph Simmons)
Koskie, Jack L. Ships That Shaped Australia. Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1987. [Includes short biography of Henry and colour paintings of schooner Elizabeth Cohen and PS Rose (a sister ship of Henry’s Thistle).]

The period in general:
Courtney, Bryce. The Potato Factory. [Ikey Solomon]


**Summary of publications sought:**

Publications viewed—and of interest:


Telfer, William Jnr. (Intro and notes by Roger Milliss) The *Wallabadah Manuscript.* NSW University Press, 1980. [Info on William Cohen.] ISBN 0 86840 168 4 [PO Box 1 Kensington NSW 2033; Phone 398 8900; in print (27 copies); $95!] [Mos: LH 994.4]

Publications/articles not yet viewed:

● may be of particular interest.

*The Early Days of Murrurundi,* Commonwealth Jubilee Celebration Committee, Murrurundi, 1951.


Davis, Dudley. *The Other Side of The Record.*


• Joseph, Solomon. *Diary*, Mitchell Library, ML MSS???
• Nathan, Lawrence D. *As Old As Auckland*. c.1975?
Comments on Other Publications

Both the introductory examples quoted in this article are inaccurate, which indicates just how careful one has to be, particularly when researching a very old—and therefore, relatively speaking, common—Jewish name such as ‘Cohen’:

p.413: It is stated ‘For example, there was a Jew from Germany called Levy Emanuel Cohen who flourished in Brighton, England, about the year 1820. Several of his children migrated to Australia …’

Emanuel Hyam Cohen of Brighton was from Germany. Levy Emanuel Cohen was his eldest son. Emanuel Hyam Cohen’s two youngest sons, Abraham and Raphael (Ralph), migrated to Australia. Levy Emanuel Cohen (with another brother, Nathan) remained in England and was the publisher of the Brighton Guardian. So, it was Levy Emanuel Cohen’s two (younger) brothers (not his children) who migrated to Australia.

p.414: It is stated ‘As an example of this may be cited the family tree of one of the sons [sic] of Levy Emanuel Cohen whom I have mentioned earlier. This son [sic] Abraham Cohen settled in Tamworth, NSW, where many of his family still live today, including his grand-daughter, Mrs V. I. Cohen …’
The Abraham Cohen who settled in Tamworth is not the Abraham Cohen ‘mentioned earlier’ in the p.413 example. The one who settled in Tamworth was the younger brother of Lewis, Samuel and David Cohen (of David Cohen & Co; issue of Barnett and Sierlah); he is the Cohen of the business Cohen & Levy of Tamworth (and the ‘Levy’ was Louis Levy, the younger brother of Lewis Wolfe Levy). This Abraham Cohen’s descendants may well still be living in Tamworth. But, Mrs Victor I. Cohen was not his granddaughter. Victor I. Cohen was the son of George Cohen (the twin brother of The Hon. Henry Emanuel Cohen, and older brother of Nathan Cohen). Victor married his first cousin, Ida Cohen, who was a daughter of his uncle Nathan (who settled in Tamworth in 1858). George and Nathan were both sons of the Abraham Cohen (who married Sophia, née Cohen, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Cohen), who indeed was a son of Emanuel Hyam Cohen (married Hannah, née Benjamin) of Brighton, England, who, as previously mentioned, was also the father of Levy Emanuel Cohen. So, Mrs Victor I. (Ida) Cohen of Tamworth was a grand-daughter of an Abraham Cohen, but not the one who settled in Tamworth. Ida Cohen’s grandfather, Abraham Cohen, settled at various times in Sydney, Port Macquarie, Goulburn, and Sydney. Some of both George and Nathan Cohen’s descendants certainly do still live in Tamworth.

On pp. 129–144 there is an extensive monograph on Sir Benjamin Benjamin. There are some errors therein: Edward Cohen arrived in Sydney, aboard The Brothers, on 21 December 1833. Benjamin’s wife Fanny was Edward Cohen’s niece (issue of his older sister Sophia and Abraham Cohen of Port Macquarie / Sydney)—not his younger sister. Edward Cohen’s father was Henry Cohen (of Port Macquarie / Sydney)—not Abraham Cohen. Henry Emanuel Cohen was Edward Cohen’s nephew (again, issue of Edward’s older sister Sophia and Abraham Cohen)—not his brother. Benjamin and Edward were not ‘brothers-in-law twice over’ because, although Edward did marry Benjamin’s older sister Rebecca, it was Edward’s niece Fanny that Benjamin married.

I believe the author is in error when she states that at the time of the family’s arrival in 1833 Edward had ‘three sisters and four brothers.’ There were then 10 children, so he had four sisters and five brothers (see above Appendix comment ‘How many children’). And again when she states Edward had ‘five sons and three daughters’. He had four sons and four daughters; one of the sons, Henry (b.1854), apparently died in infancy; another, the eldest son, Nathan, died, in his twentieth year, in 1867. And, a corrigendum to the ADB which attempts to correct the number of children mistakenly ‘corrects’ the numbers on ‘line 7’ which refer to Edward’s siblings—not his children!

p.243: Neither Nathan Cohen nor his uncle William Cohen were related to the Abraham Cohen of the business Cohen & Levy of Tamworth. Nathan’s father was the Abraham Cohen who at one time was part
owner and printer of the *Australian* newspaper. (See above comment on ‘On Tracing Australian Jewish Genealogy’, Dr Anthony P. Joseph).

This same paragraph also confuses Henry Cohen’s and Abraham Cohen’s children: ‘Among his eleven [sic] children were …’ The structure of this paragraph is such that at this point I think we are still talking about Henry. Regardless, the Hon. Edward [Aaron] was Henry’s son (ie, Abraham’s brother-in-law), and Henry Emanuel, Nathan and Fanny were the children of Abraham and Sophia née Cohen (ie, grand-children of Henry). Of the children who survived to a mature age, Henry had 12 and Abraham 11. And, strictly speaking, Edward was ‘Mayor’ of Melbourne, not Lord Mayor.

p.296, Note 17: ‘Clerk: William Cohen, in the Union Bank in Queens Street in 1841. He was a founding member of the Australia Felix Lodge of Freemasons and its second secretary. By 1851 he has settled in Tamworth (AO 2/7827).’ The William Cohen listed in the Melbourne Directory of 1841 as a clerk at the Union Bank cannot be Henry’s William as he would have then been only 10 years old and undoubtedly, at that time, would have been still at Port Macquarie with his mother.


p.301: Unfortunately, this edition still incorrectly identifies Edward Cohen as a son of Abraham Cohen. The Hon Edward Cohen was the second son of Henry and Elizabeth Cohen (of Port Macquarie). He was a brother-in-law of Abraham, having married Sophia, Edward’s older sister. Also this Abraham Cohen (Henry Emanuel Cohen’s father) was at the time ‘late of Goulburn’ according to Henry Emanuel’s letter of introduction from Samuel Cohen (of David Cohen & Co, in Sydney) to Lewis Wolfe Levy, the partner in Maitland in 1856. Abraham’s brother-in-law Joseph Simmons (married to Abraham’s wife’s sister, Nancy) was apparently also in Goulburn about this time, which suggests there was indeed a *Goulburn* connection. However, I have found no record of this Abraham Cohen being in *Tamworth*. Several of his children were. But, the Abraham Cohen who was in business in Tamworth was actually a younger brother of Lewis, Samuel and David Cohen (of David Cohen & Co, Maitland) (See above comment on ‘On Tracing Australian Jewish Genealogy’, Dr Anthony P. Joseph).

*City on the Peel, Roger Milliss, Reed, Sydney, 1980.*

p.277 (chapter 3, note 2) William Cohen came to Australia in 1833 at the age of about two—not ‘1836 at the age of five.’ William was the youngest of the then ten siblings who, with their mother Elizabeth and brother-in-law Joseph Simmons, arrived in *The Brothers* on 21 December 1833. His name is not recorded in the list of *The Brothers* passengers, which also suggests that he was indeed still a babe-in-arms.

*Ships That Shaped Australia, Jack L. Koskie, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1987.*

This publication contains colour reproductions of paintings of the schooner *Elizabeth Cohen* and the PS *Rose* (a sister ship the PS *Thistle* which Henry apparently later owned).

p.60 (penultimate paragraph): It is not true to say that Henry Cohen ‘started out with nothing’. Henry claimed at his Trial that his business ‘returned him £4000 to £5000 per year’, and when his wife and family followed him into exile they brought with them assets described, in two government documents of that time, as ‘a large sum’ and ‘a great deal of money.’

p.61: The quote from the report in the *Shipping Gazette* regarding the *Wanderer* is defective in that it omits the following very pertinent matter from between the words ‘assist.’ and ‘Messrs’: ‘The yacht was lightened … and they stood in the bar … Just on the bar, the breeze suddenly abated, and the keel of the vessel gently struck, and a strong flood-tide carried her to the south shore where … she stranded.’

How could Captain Easton have been ‘the pilot at Port Macquarie’ if he was the master of the *Elizabeth Cohen*?

p.62: Henry arrived in (December) 1833, not 1832. The charge was ‘did receive … promissory notes … he well knowing them to have been stolen …’

p.64: His wife Elizabeth and ten (not eight) children followed him out.

‘… on emancipation Henry was reunited with his family’ is not strictly correct. Henry was fortunate in that he appears not to have been separated from his family while at Port Macquarie. Apparently, as a convict of the type ‘special’, and assigned to Major Archibald Clunes Innes, he was able to live with his own family in the township (see the police matter of the stolen trousers), there presumably attending to the Major’s interests during his working day. It may well be that, apart from not being able to benefit directly from his own labours, his only other handicap was that he could not work his apparently considerable assets in his own name. His wife and elder sons took care of that.
**Edge of the Diaspora, Suzanne D. Rutland, Collins Australia, Sydney, 1988.**

p.115: The p.243 ambiguity of *Australian Genesis* is compounded; and Edward Cohen is mistakenly described as a brother of Henry Emanuel Cohen; Edward was Henry Emanuel’s uncle, a brother of Henry Emanuel’s mother, Sophia (née Cohen).

**No Other Home, Barbara Falk, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1988.**

Unfortunately, some errors of fact appear in this publication, many of them apparently because the publisher ‘inadvertently published the uncorrected version’ of the text.

p.7: Henry Cohen’s wife’s name was Elizabeth, not Elisabeth (zed, not ess).

p.8: Henry Cohen’s second son Edward is identified on the record of his marriage as Edward Aaron Cohen. And note the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 June 1848: ‘Birth of a son to Edward A. Cohen at 512 George Street, Sydney, 22 June 1848’. Where did Barbara Falk get her Edward Henry from? Henry Cohen’s eldest son was named Samuel Henry.

p.8: Rebecca and Benjamin Benjamin’s father’s name was Moses Benjamin (not Lion)—as is noticed later on p.21. (Lion Benjamin was Moses’ father.)

p.8: Benjamin Benjamin married Edward Cohen’s niece (Fanny, the daughter of his older sister Sophia and Abraham Cohen), not his sister.

p.11,12: Where does the Henry Simeon Cohen come from. I have not yet sighted a document in which our Henry is described as other than simply ‘Henry Cohen.’ (See his Will.)

p.12: Family Tree. See footnote 3 of this document for corrections to Jessop’s ‘Cohen of Paddington’ family tree, and ‘How many children?’ above for a fuller comment.

p.12: Henry Cohen’s third son’s name was Philip (only one ell).

p.12: Elizabeth’s Death Certificate states she was married in 1809 (not 1815) and Henry’s D.C. states he was married at ‘20 years of age’. As Elizabeth pre-deceased Henry I assume the informant (son-in-law, Abraham) would not have had any trouble ascertaining the ‘1809’ date from Henry.

p.12: Family Tree. Philip Frankel’s article in AJHS Journal, Vol. 1, Pt. 10, December 1943 (p.356), states that his father’s first wife’s name was Miriam Moses (not Sarah).

p.14: The trial transcript records that Henry stated in his written defence: ‘I return in my business between 4000l. and 5000l. per year,’ that is, £4000–£5000, not ‘£4-500.’ The ‘l’ symbol then indicated British pounds sterling, not florins.

p.14: ‘At his trial … the prosecuting lawyer said …’ Not strictly correct. The matter thereafter quoted was a witness’ recounting of an exchange between Henry and the Post Office solicitor, Mr Peacock, at the time of the initial interview, before he was formally detained at Bow Street.

p.14: Henry was transported in the brig *Lloyds* (plural) not *Lloyd*.

p.15: The name of the ship in which the family arrived was apparently *The Brothers*, which, it seems, should not be confused with another ship *Brothers* which made voyages to NSW carrying convicts in 1824 and 1827. Richard Bourke, not Gipps, was Governor in 1836 at the time of the attempt to have Henry reassigned to James Simmons. Bourke left for England in December 1837. Gipps arrived in February 1838.

p.16: It was ‘Becke’s’ not ‘Becky’s’ cottage. This is a reference to the cottage in which George Lewis Becke (1855–1913) as a child grew up. Becke was born at Port Macquarie (his father was Clerk of Petty Sessions) and, later in life, he became a prominent writer, using the pseudonym ‘Louis Becke’. I thought the original quote described the Becke’s cottage which had ‘three sets of fireplaces …’ not Samuel Cohen’s; Samuel being merely ‘a neighbour to the Beckes.’

p.16: Sophia married Abraham Cohen in 1836, not 1835.

p.16: Henry’s son-in-law Abraham Cohen is not the Abraham Cohen of Tamworth. (See above comment on Dr Anthony P. Josephs ‘On Tracing Australian Jewish Genealogy’.

p.16: It was Samuel Henry Cohen (1821–99), Henry’s eldest son—not Henry’s brother—who married Eliza Hyams in 1840. Samuel was Edward’s older brother. As far as I am aware Henry Cohen had no brother in Australia. He did have at least one sister and one brother (Benjamin Wolf Cohen) back in England.

p.17: ‘Henry’s conditional pardon was received from London in December 1843.’ My research indicates that Henry’s name appeared on the Governor’s ‘Recommendations for Conditional Pardons,’ dated 1 July 1842; the actual certificate of Conditional Pardon, No. 43/183, was signed at Sydney and dated 8 August 1843. And an annotation on the ToL Butt indicates that the C.P. was initially granted by the Governor on 28 April 1842.

p.18: It is the Hastings District Historical Society—now called the Port Macquarie Historical Society—not the Hasting Royal Historical Society.
The Cohen’s schooner was the Elizabeth Cohen, not Elisabeth Cohen.

Henry was not survived by his wife. She died 18 months earlier on 13 February 1866. He was survived by eleven of his children, not ten. The eldest daughter, Nancy (Simmons), was the only issue of mature age to pre-decease Henry.

Who/what was at Meningham, NSW? According to Henry’s Will, at the time of its making (October 1866) all the daughters (except Caroline?) appeared to be resident in Sydney; Samuel, Edward and Philip were in Melbourne, Joseph was in Murrurundi, Lewis was in Launceston, and William was in Tamworth.

Henry Cohen’s mother was Priscilla Frances (née Benjamin), not Elizabeth Cohen.

The expression ‘the family of the Edward Henry Cohens’ seems somewhat ambiguous to me. I don’t know whether it is referring to the family of Samuel Henry Cohen or the family of the Hon. Edward Aaron Cohen or to both: Henry Cohen’s two eldest sons were Samuel Henry and Edward Aaron. As is stated, Simeon Frankel did marry Anne, a daughter of the eldest son, Samuel Henry Cohen. But, it is not noticed that earlier (in 1854) Henry Cohen’s fifth son Lewis had married Jacob Frankel’s eldest daughter Mary. And, almost a generation later, Jacob’s son (by his second wife), Philip Frankel, married two sisters, Minnie and Estella Myra (his half nieces?), daughters of the same Lewis Cohen and Mary (née Frankel) who was Philip’s much older step-sister. [Is all that clear? Ed.]

Was Edward’s wife Rebecca’s name Rebecca Moses Benjamin? Is this correct terminology in that Rebecca Bas (was the daughter of) Moses?

It is stated that ‘[Edward] returned there [to Melbourne] to live with his wife and son Nathan Edward aboard the Shamrock on 22 June 1848.’ The Sydney Morning Herald of the following day, 23 June 1848, carried a notice ‘COHEN, Edward A. 512 George Street. Birth of a son on 22.6.1848.’ And, there is an entry in the typed Index to NSW Births (1848 Vol 138 #387) ‘Child: Cohen, Nathan; Father: Edward; Mother: Sarah [sic].’ The ‘Sarah’ does not tally but the birth date does tally with the information on Nathan’s death certificate in that he died at ‘19 years 11 month’ of age on 18 May 1868. Maybe the 22 June return-to-Melbourne date is correct, they were made of stronger stuff in those days.

This Cohen family is not that of our Henry and Elizabeth. But, two of Henry’s prominent grand-sons, both sons of Henry’s daughter, Sophia, and Abraham Cohen, somehow mistakenly get a mention: Henry Emanuel Cohen (1840–1912) and Nathan Cohen (1842–1910).


Henry Cohen (of Port Macquarie) is referred to as Henry Simeon Cohen. Reference? Otherwise, same comment as for pp.11–12 of No Other Home above (from where this reference possibly came).


Robert Heath Hall’s Diary (see above) indicates that the schooner Elizabeth Cohen was still under the control of Samuel Henry Cohen in 1852, the year Horatio Tozer and his family removed from Port Macquarie. Cohen’s new schooner Eliza arrived in Port Macquarie on 30 June 1852. The Tozers left Port Macquarie by the Hannah on 17 September 1852. Heath Hall’s Diary gives the impression that the Tozers were leaving permanently but Horatio Tozer, at least, must have returned as he is apparently buried at Port Macquarie.
Mary Street / Devonshire Street’ is very strange to say the least. The Burial Ground was on the site of the now Central Railway terminus. The pedestrian subway between Elizabeth Street (at Devonshire Street) and Railway Square is on the alignment of that portion of Devonshire Street that then was the southern boundary of the Burial Ground (see the older map on p.18). And, the ‘17’ tag for ‘Cohen’s Family Hotel’ should be on the corner of Margaret and Carrington (not indicated)—not York—Streets.

p.35: On this page is reproduced a Mitchell Library Holterman Collection, 1880s photograph looking eastward down Margaret Street and showing ‘Cohen’s Family Hotel.’ It is not noted that the ‘Cohen’ was originally Abraham Cohen (1812–74), that is, Henry Emanuel Cohen’s father. In 1848–52 Abraham’s address was ‘Cleveland Cottage/Lodge, Castlereagh Street’; in 1866 it was ‘Wynyard Square’, so I assume that the Hotel dates from some time after 1852 (the Barracks were demolished and the ‘Wynyard Square’ created in the ‘early 1850s’). Also, the caption mistakenly states that the Hotel was at the ‘corner Margaret and York Streets.’ It was at the corner of Margaret and Carrington Streets (directly opposite Wynyard Park), where now stands what originally was the Shell Oil building which now seems to be an annex of the Menzies Hotel.

p.30: It is stated that James Simmons ‘received his absolute pardon in 1842 and later established his business …’ By 1842 James Simmons was well established as a successful businessman having commenced his commercial pursuits as early as 1823 after receiving his Ticket of Leave.

p.36: I had the impression that Samuel Cohen joined with his younger brother David (not his eldest brother Lewis, with whom he had previously [1837–39] been in partnership in Maitland as ‘L. & S. Cohen’) to form ‘David Cohen & Co.’ Lewis Wolfe Levy, while he was in business at Tamworth (1846–54), appears to have been acting on his own behalf as well as agent for David Cohen & Co. (see Cohen & Levy’s advert in the first issue of the Tamworth Examiner [1859?]: ‘Cohen & Levy, established 1846—successors to L. W. Levy’; and ‘L. W. Levy’s store’ [Wallabadah Manuscript, on Tamworth in the 1850s]). In 1854 the Tamworth store was passed from L.W.L. to his younger brother Louis and his cousin Abraham Cohen (who was a younger brother of Lewis, Samuel and David), and L.W.L. (then?) joined Samuel and David Cohen in that partnership known as David Cohen & Co, and he was thereafter for some period the partner resident in Maitland (see above quote from the letter from Samuel Cohen in Sydney to L. W. Levy in Maitland, introducing Henry Emanuel Cohen, c.1856). David Cohen & Co. always claimed establishment in 1836 (sometimes 1835), which predates the arrival in Australia, in 1840, of both L. W. Levy. and David Cohen. The eldest of the Cohen brothers, Lewis, arrived in 1831; Samuel arrived in 1834; Abraham arrived in ?????. Obviously, the 1835 establishment date represents the year in which the brothers Lewis and Samuel started their original trading enterprise.

In what year was the partnership retitled ‘David Cohen & Co.’? 1841? 1845? Was L.W.L. in partnership with Samuel and David Cohen, or acting as agent for, David Cohen & Co. during the period (1846–54) that he was in Tamworth?

p.37: Henry Emanuel Cohen is described as Abraham Cohen’s grandson. He was Abraham’s son.

1. Rabbi I. Porush in his article ‘The Jews of Tamworth’ (AJHS Journal, Vol. 3, Pt 4, December 1950, p.196), states that David Cohen & Co, in lieu of payment of outstanding debts, took over the Tamworth store of ______ in 1844, and passed it on to his [sic] brother Abraham Cohen and Louis Levy in 1846. The inference is that Lewis W. Levy had this store, under his own name, only for the period 1844–46. This does not seem to tally as Lewis W. Levy supposedly did not leave Tamworth until 1854.
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